こいもく
Volume.1
[原作]林達永
[作画]李海源

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DYSPATHY

ADVICE, HUH?
I'M A VIRGIN. THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED WITH WORDS.
YOU KNOW... I HAVE ONE FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN ...
DO IT WITH ME...
ぎゅっ

THEN I KNOW I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE MANGA YOU'VE BEEN HOPING FOR!
ぽう
HAVE SEX WITH ME!
こいもく
CIMOC
STORY OF CARTOONIST AND TRUE LOVE / PRESENTED BY ARTLIM MEDIA
新連載
story work 原作 林達永
graphic work 作畫 李海原
by ARTLIM MEDIA

HEY! RIGHT THERE! YOU MISSED A PASS!
OH... I DID?
DID YOU REALLY HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE AS AN ASSISTANT?
HUH?
WE TOOK YOU IN ON ASAHINA-SAN'S RECOM-MENDATION. AND THIS IS THE BACKGROUND YOU SPENT ALL DAY DRAWING?
UM... WHAT SHOULD I FIX?
...that I've been fired from.
This is the fifth place.
UM.. OKAY.
ALRIGHT.
SUZUKI CAN YOU PUT THE LAST TOUCHES ON THIS? WE'RE BUMPING RIGHT UP ON THE DEADLINE.

...!
JEEZ DUDE, IF YOU CAN'T HACK IT THEN SAY IT AT THE BEGINNING... WE'RE BUSY AS HELL HERE.
ハロー
パア
テワオン
プー
IT'S SO COLD...

IF WE NEED YOU, YOU'LL HEAR FROM US.
THAT'S ENOUGH. JUST HEAD HOME FOR TODAY.
I'M Inamine Kouta.
On this particular morning, it's been two years since I came to Tokyo to become a manga artist.
I finally managed to get a hold of a job at this sixth studio, and now I'm getting cut loose.

WHEW...
I'VE BEEN SO STRESSED OUT THAT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN A WINK OF SLEEP. I'M EXHAUSTED...
I THINK I'LL DOZE OFF...

パカン

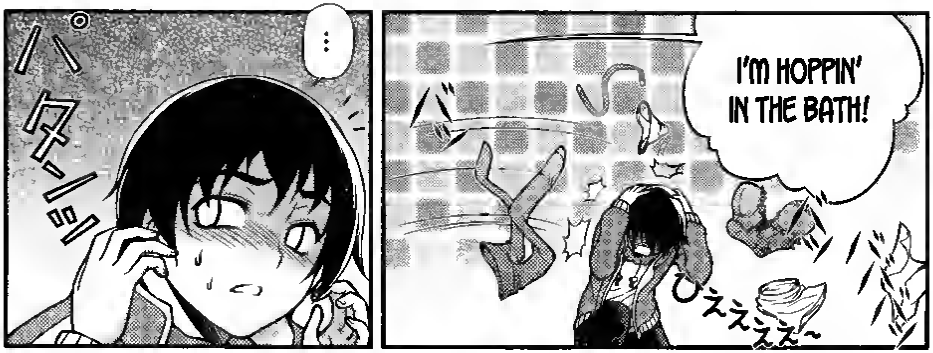
GRROOWWWL

IT'LL BE A PAIN TO GO OUT, BUT I GOTTA GET SOMETHING IN MY STOMACH.
パタン
NOT A SCRAP...
カチャッ
HUH?
ガチャ ガチャッ
NOT AGAIN... THIS PIECE OF CRAP.
GOD DAMMIT! DON'T TELL ME THAT EVEN YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME!
OWWW!

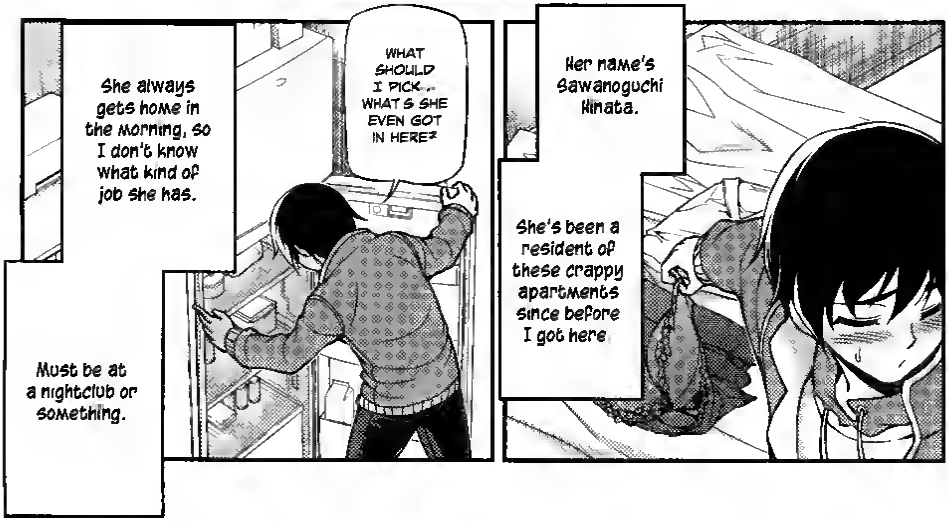
AH! I... I'M SORRY! ARE YOU...
HUH?!
OOOH...
THAT HIT MY NOSE...

This is my neighbor, Sawanoguchi-san.
You really squished it
ARE YOU OKAY, SAWANO-GUCHI-SAN?!
I'M OKAY, I'M OKAY! I'M IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY, SO I'LL FORGIVE YOU.
TH... THANK YOU...
I-I'M REALLY SORRY!
プニ
プニ
I WASN'T BEING CAREFUL!
FIX ME SOME BREAKFAST!
...
I FEEL LIKE CRAP IF I GO TO SLEEP WITHOUT EATING ANYTHING!
BUT IN EXCHANGE, YOU GOTTA COOK FOR ME!
WHAT?!

UM... SORRY TO DISTURB YOU...
This turn of events led me all the-way into her place...
ALRIGHT THEN, GRAB WHATEVER YOU NEED OUTTA THE FRIDGE AND FIX SOMETHIN' UP!
Jeez, a girl's place... This is the first time I've ever been in one.
チラッ
GWAAAH!


…
I'M HOPPIN' IN THE BATH!
ひえええええ~

WHAAA?!


She always gets home in the morning, so I don't know what kind of job she has.
Must be at a nightclub or something.
WHAT SHOULD I PICK... WHAT'S SHE EVEN GOT IN HERE?
Her name's Sawanoguchi Minata.
She's been a resident of these crappy apartments since before I got here.

サアア
I'M GONNA RUN DOWN TO THE STORE REAL QUICK!
I'm trying to get involved with her as little as possible.
WHAT COULD SHE WANT ME TO MAKE WITH THIS STUFF?
I mean, she's a good person and all, but...
Still, she's about the first person who's shown me much in the way of kindness. Sometimes she'll share a little food with me.
Well, that's fine.
No response ...
ガチャ
UGH... SO COLD...
ヨロヨロ
Maybe it's because part of my personality is that I'm really bad at connecting with people.

I'M BACK.
DO YOU MIND HAVING AN OMELETTE FOR BREAKFAST, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN?
Is she still in the bath?
SAWANOGUCHI-SAN...?
I CAN MAKE YOU AN OMELETTE!
could she be...!?
UM... SAWANOGUCHI-SAN...?

GWAAAHH!!
The biggest reason I don't want to get involved with her is that I don't want to wear myself out putting up with her whole sideshow.
YOU CAN'T FALL ASLEEP THERE!
blub blub blub
I'M GETTING COMPLAINTS FROM NAKAMURA-SENSEI. HE SAYS NEXT TIME HE WANTS SOMEONE HE CAN GET MORE USE OUT OF.
YOU FEEL LIKE KICKIN' ME IN THE SHINS, DO YA?
COMIC HEAT EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
ASAHINA

I ended up having to give her Mouth-to-Mouth after that... And call the ambulance, of course I haven't been able to get a wink of sleep, and now Asahina-san is dragging me in here...
I'M SORRY...
Y'KNOW, KID...
IF YOU'RE NOT GIVING THIS YOUR FULL EFFORT, WHY NOT JUST QUIT?
THIS IS ANOTHER INDUSTRY THAT'S GOTTEN A HELLUVA LOT ROUGHER LATELY
AH! YES! SORRY!
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
UM... OKAY...
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU IF YOU FOUND ANOTHER LINE OF WORK?
THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF GIG WHERE SOMEONE WITHOUT TALENT CAN HANG ON WITH SHEER GRIT.

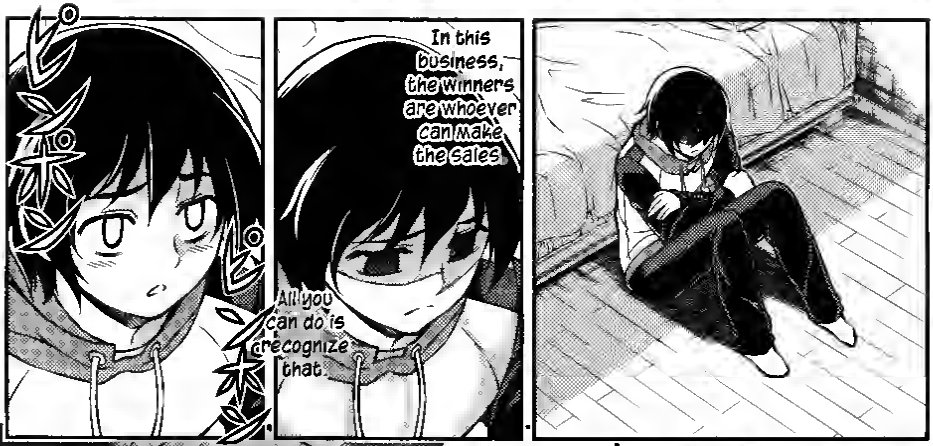
HERE, GOT SOME REFRESHMENTS!
AH... THANKS, SUDA.
Talent...
This isn't the kind of gig where someone without talent can hang on with sheer grit.
HAHA ...
THIS IS ALL YOU'VE SOLD? I'M JUST ASKIN' YA TO BE THE SALESBOY. SHOULD BE PRETTY SIMPLE!

ARE THINGS NOT GOING WELL FOR YOU LATELY?
...?
WELL, COULD BE WORSE...
...
HEY, DO YOU REMEMBER ONE OF OUR CLASSMATES AT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL? KAWARIN?
KAWAHARA? YEAH, OF COURSE.
THAT'S KAWARIN'S BOOTH.
...?

ドン
YOU MEAN... THAT'S KAWAHARA'S...?
ドドン
SURPRISING, HUH? SHE'S ONLY BEEN HERE A FEW TIMES, BUT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BECOME A BIG-TIME CIRCLE NOW.
I HEAR SHE SOLD TWENTY THOUSAND COPIES IN A DAY.
TWENTY THOUSAND?! WHAT ABOUT YOU?
TWO HUNDRED ...
KAWAHARA DIDN'T REALLY STAND OUT AT SCHOOL, AND SHE WASN'T MUCH OF A WRITER.
I dunno about that
AND YOU WERE ALWAYS BETTER AT GIVING YOUR CHARACTERS EMOTION, KOUTA.
BUT NOW, KAWAHARA HAS BECOME A BIG-TIME DOUJIN ARTIST AND SHE'S EVEN MADE HER MAJOR DEBUT.
SHE CAN DRAW CUTE GIRLS... THAT'S ALL IT TOOK FOR HER.
...

...
WELL, I GUESS IT SUCKS, BUT THAT'S CERTAINLY ITS OWN FORM OF TALENT.
IN THIS BUSINESS, THE WINNERS ARE WHOEVER CAN MAKE THE SALES. ALL YOU CAN DO IS RECOGNIZE THAT.

Sales...
Talent...


In this business, the winners are whoever can make the sales
All you can do is recognize that

The last thing I need is for her to try and take care of me...
NO REASON I CAN'T HELP YOU OUT WHEN I'M FIXING SOMETHING FOR MYSELF!

YOU REALLY SAVED ME! I WOULDA BEEN DEAD IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU INAMINE-KUN!
WHO IS IT?
HELLO! IT'S SAWANO-GUCHI FROM NEXT DOOR!

SO I THOUGHT I'D SAY SORRY AND THANK YOU AT THE SAME TIME.
Judging on how she sounds, she doesn't seem drunk right now...
SORRY ABOUT THIS MORNING...
WHAT IS IT?

A THANK YOU IS ENOUGH.
I'M PRETTY TIRED TODAY, SO...
WHAA?
What's she springing on me all of a sudden?
DO YOU MIND IF I COME IN FOR A BIT? I THOUGHT WE COULD HAVE SOME SUSHI.
WHA ...?
N-NO, REALLY!
BUT YOU CAME INTO MY PLACE, RIGHT?
SO IF I COME TO YOUR PLACE THEN WE CAN CALL IT A DRAW, OKAY?
You're just a nuisance.
DO ME A FAVOR...
JUST GO HOME ALREADY, PLEASE.
WELL... UM...

I GOT A SPECIAL ORDER FOR TWO... I CAN'T EAT IT BY MYSELF.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO...
ハーハー
DAMMIT!
How pathetic can I get?!
I'm pond scum! Hating people I don't even know
!
INAMINE-KUN? IT'S ASAHINA.

カチコチ
Thank you so much Asahina-san!
You gave me another chance! I won't screw up this time!
はぁはぁ
SOUNDS LIKE THEY NEED ASSISTANTS TO FINISH THINGS UP. YOU CAN AT LEAST ERASE AND APPLY SCREENTONE AND BETA PAINT, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST FOR THE DAY. BUT THIS IS GONNA BE YOUR LAST CHANCE
THIS IS YOUR NEW ASSISTANT TODAY? WHAT'S WITH HIM?
HE'S JUST STRESSED OUT TO WORK AT THE SAME PLACE AS AN ARTIST IN THE TEN-MILLION CLUB LIKE MINERYUU JIROU!
くう

YOU REALLY THINK HE'S EVEN UP TO BETA PAINTING AND ERASING?
I SHOULD THINK SO.
AH! OKAY!
AND YOU DON'T NEED TO GET SO WOUND UP ABOUT IT!
CAN YOU BETA PAINT THIS FOR ME?
YES?!
DID I MESS SOMETHING UP?!
INAMINE-SAN?
すう
...
WE ALL LOVE MANGA AND WE'RE HERE UNDER ONE ROOF MAKING IT... YOU SHOULD TRY RELAXING A LITTLE MORE.
I need to be recognized as a member of the staff!
No matter what, I need to make a good impression!
Wow... What a terrific guy...
Maybe you could hurry it up a little too.

OH! THAT PART ISN'T BETA!
IT'S JUST WHERE THE X-MARKS ARE.
AH! OKAY!
CLUNK
ビュ～ビュ～

!!!
What...
DID I...
IT DEFINITELY WASN'T ON PURPOSE...
TOMORROW'S THE DEADLINE!
WHA... WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?!
I... I'LL PAY...
ガタガタ
ガタガタ
I... I'M SO SORRY!!
WAAAAGGGHH!!

I'LL PAY FOR EVERY-THING! I'LL COMPEN-SATE YOU!
WHAT?
PLEASE, LET ME COMPENSATE YOU!
SO...
YOU'RE OFFERING TO COMPENSATE US, ARE YOU?
YES...
AS... MUCH AS I CAN...
...!
UH HUH... WELL THEN, HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE?
...!
H-HOW MUCH WOULD ONE PAGE COST?
ONE PAGE?

YOU COULDN'T BE FURTHER OFF THE MARK IF YOU TRIED, YOU CRETIN!
ガタガタ
ガタガタガタ
UM...
B-B... UH...

ARE YOU GOING TO COMPENSATE US IN FULL FOR AN UNUSABLE MANUSCRIPT?
IS THAT THE KIND OF THING AN ASPIRING MANGA ARTIST WOULD SAY?
IF THE MANUSCRIPT DOESN'T MAKE THE DEADLINE AND HAS TO BE SUSPENDED FOR AN ISSUE, WERE YOU PLANNING TO COMPENSATE US FOR THAT?
WHAT IF THE MAGAZINE'S SALES DROP BECAUSE OUR PRODUCT ISN'T IN IT, CAN YOU EVEN COMPENSATE US FOR THAT? CAN YOU?
LISTEN WELL!
THIS ISN'T AN ISSUE OF MONEY!
EVEN IF YOU COMPEN-SATE US, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE PROBLEM THAT OUR MANGA WON'T BE PUBLISHED!
AND WHAT ABOUT ALL OUR READERS OUT THERE WHO ARE EAGERLY ANTICIPATING OUR MANGA?!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE'RE GONNA FIX IT AND MAKE THE DEADLINE!
DELIVERING THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE MANUSCRIPTS WITHIN THE ALLOTTED TIME - THAT IS THE DOMAIN OF THE TRUE PROFESSIONAL

LEAVE HERE AT ONCE.
…!?
YOU THINK YOU CAN COMPENSATE US FOR YOUR SCREW-UPS WITH MONEY?
WE HAVE NO USE FOR SOMEONE WHO CARRIES THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE.
YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS MAKING MANGA.

よろっ
This is your last chance, so give it your best.
You have no business making manga!

I'VE... I'VE BEEN CHASING MY DREAM... AND IT'S JUST BEEN AN EMPTY DREAM.
HE'S RIGHT. IT'S INDISPUTABLE.
HEH HEH...
HEHE HE...
HEH HEH HEH...
ドサッ
IT'S OVER... ALL OF IT...
EVERY-THING...

ガクガク
ぶるぶるぶる
So cold...
I can't take this...
はあ
はあ
Wouldn't it be better for you if you found another line of work?
In this business, the winners are whoever can make the sales.
All you can do is recognize that.

Somebody...
Somebody save me!

トントントントントン
…
トントントントントン
ぶくぶく
ぶくぶく

OOH, DID YOU WAKE UP?
...!
...!
SAWANOGUCHI-SAN?

ほぅ
AFTER YESTERDAY, I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WEREN'T SUCH A BIG SUSHI FAN...
I THOUGHT TODAY I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE SOME FRIED CHICKEN.
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO YOU?
YOU THINK YOU COULD HAVE A LITTLE BIT?
…
…!
AH, LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL HAVE A BIT OF A FEVER...
YOU NEED TO LAY DOWN JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

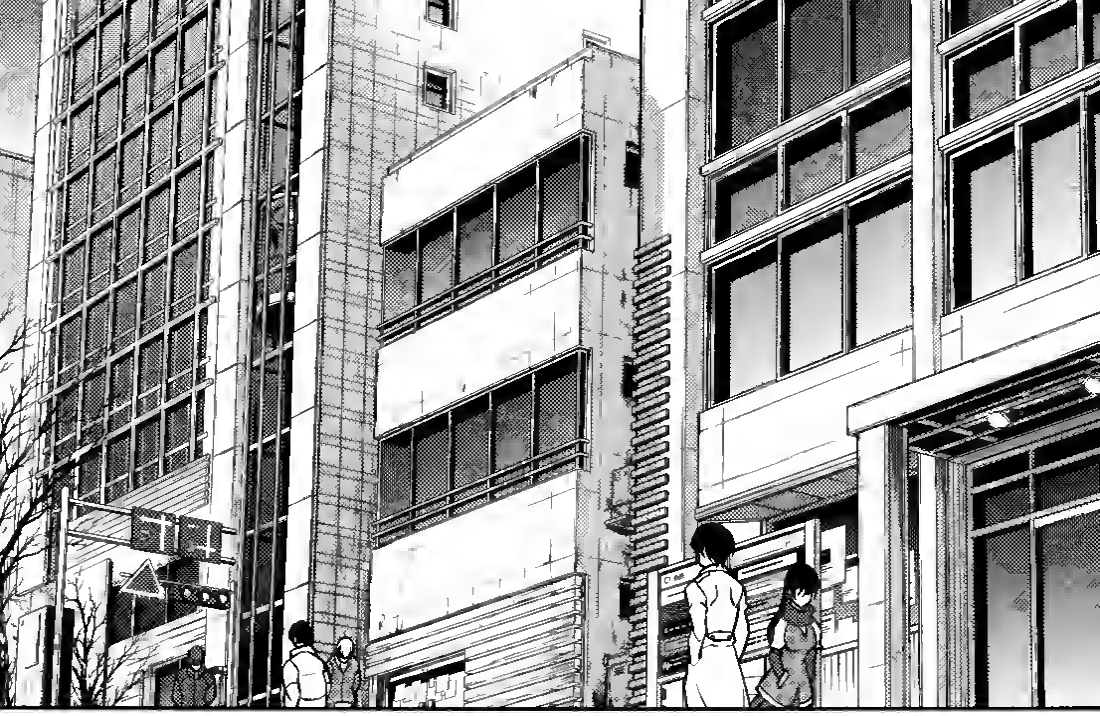
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN IN YOUR PLACE.
YOU'D NEVER LET ME IN BEFORE, SO I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE SITTING ON SOME WONDERFUL HIDDEN TREASURE.
INAMINE-KUN..
DID YOU DRAW THIS STORY-BOARD?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I DID FIND SOMETHING INTERESTING ..
...!!
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

YOU JUST BARGED INTO MY APARTMENT! WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO PEEP AT?!
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS WITH YOU?!
...
BUT WHY DID YOU CALL IT A STORYBOARD?
THAT'S MANGA TERMINOLOGY.
DO YOU WANT TO BE A MANGA ARTIST, INAMINE-KUN?
YES, I DO! IS THAT SO WRONG?
THAT'S RIGHT! I WANT TO BE A MANGA ARTIST!

I'M TOTALLY WORTHLESS AT THIS! I DON'T HAVE A SCRAP OF TALENT!
I'VE BEEN IN TOKYO FOR TWO YEARS!
I'VE WORKED MY HEART OUT THIS WHOLE TIME, BUT NOW IT'S ALL OVER!
I MIGHT AS WELL BE UN-EMPLOYED! I'D BE LESS USELESS!
...

WELL THEN...
WHY NOT MAKE MANGA WITH ME?
?
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DON'T EVEN TRY AND PLAY TRICKS ON ME...
PLAY TRICKS? NO, NO, I MAY LOOK LIKE I DO, BUT I'M EVEN MORE OF A VETERAN THAN YOU, INAMINE-KUN.
WAIT HERE A SECOND. I HAVEN'T EVER GIVEN YOU MY BUSINESS CARD.

WILL THIS FINALLY MAKE YOU BELIEVE ME?
…!!
SPLASH
スプラッシュ=SPLASH
野口日向
WHAAAAT?!
WHAA?!
にこにこ
WHA…
HUH?
Hinata SAWANOGUCHI
PHONE 03-3250-XXXX
FAX 03-3260-XXXX



That ditzy Sawano-guchi-san, of all people?
ひっく
えー
Not only that, the chief editor.
Wow, she really is an editor...

HMM... BEEN QUITE A WHILE.
SINCE THE CHIEF EDITOR BROUGHT IN SOMEONE NEW, I MEAN.
AH... TH-THANKS ...
HERE YA GO!

MONTHLY SPLASH EDITING DEPARTMENT
HONDA IZUMI
YOU DON'T GOTTA GET SO WOUND UP. YOU'RE THE CHIEF EDITOR'S NEW RECRUIT, SO I'M SURE SHE'S EXPECTING GREAT POTENTIAL FROM YOU.
I'M HONDA IZUMI, FROM THE MONTHLY SPLASH EDITING DEPARTMENT. NICE TO MEET YA, MR. SUPER ROOKIE!
AH... SURE ...
BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SUPER ROOKIE?
CRIPES... EVEN IF YOU'RE A NOVICE, YOU'VE HEARD OF MINERYUU JIROU, THE GUY WHO LAYS THE GOLDEN EGGS, RIGHT?
FROM THE TEN-MILLION CLUB?
HUH? SHE DIDN'T EVEN TELL YOU?
WHAT DO YOU...
THAT'S 'CUZ THE CHIEF EDITOR BROUGHT YOU HERE.
ほう
AND NOW, YOU'RE THE ONE SHE BROUGHT IN. WELL, BREAK A LEG!
NO WAY!
BACK IN THE DAY, THE CHIEF EDITOR BROUGHT HIM IN HERE AND SHOWED HIM THE ROPES.

What would a high-powered editor like her want with me?
I never thought I'd discover that she was such an accomplished publisher.

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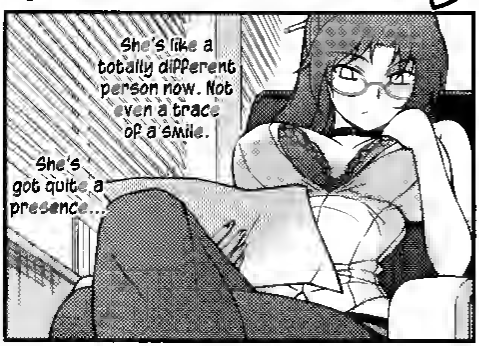
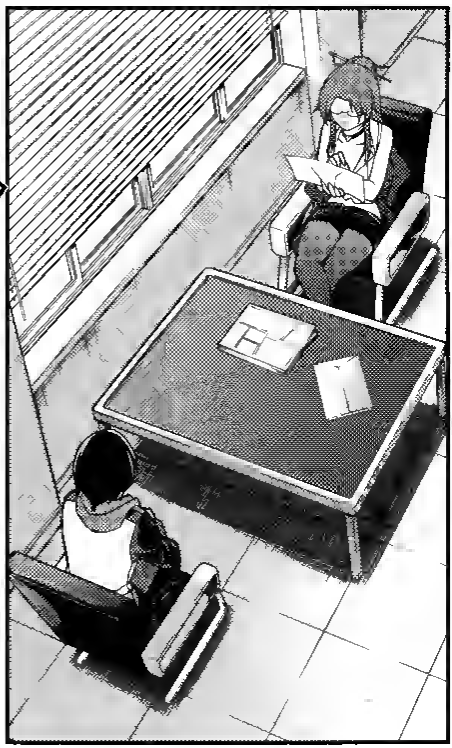
ドクン
ドクン


She's like a totally different person now. Not even a trace of a smile.
She's got quite a presence...

ふう



HUH ...?
OKAY! SORRY! I'LL FIX IT RIGHT AWAY!
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO MAKE A 36 PAGE DRAFT?
I'M ASKING YOU WHEN YOU COULD GIVE ME...
...A COMPLETE 36-PAGE DRAFT OF YOUR STORYBOARD.
BUT... WHY?
...?
SURE, THERE'LL BE REVISIONS, BUT WE'LL LEAVE THAT FOR LATER.
HMM... TEN DAYS SHOULD BE ENOUGH, RIGHT?
D-DOES THAT MEAN... IT WOULD GET PRODUCED?

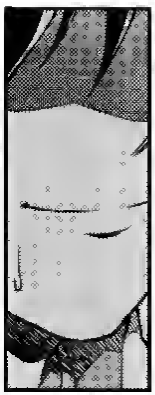
WHY'D YOU CHOOSE ME? I CAN'T EVEN DRAW... WHY DID YOU GIVE ME THIS CHANCE?
ガタ
ガタ
ガタ
WAS IT JUST BECAUSE... WE HAPPEN TO LIVE NEXT TO EACH OTHER?
BECAUSE YOU CAN ALWAYS GET BETTER AT DRAWING WITH MORE PRACTICE.
...?
BUT I CAN SEE THAT YOU HAVE TALENT.
THE TALENT TO MAKE LIVELY CHARACTERS IN GOOD STORIES.
SO I THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU A CHANCE.

LET'S GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT.
I WON'T JUST SUPERVISE IT, I'LL SUPPORT YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN.
OKAY...
AND YOU NEED TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE TO MAKE THE DEADLINE FOR ME.
?
I... I'LL TRY...
WITH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING...
This is the first time...

I've ever been recognized like this!

WITH MATERIAL THIS PRETENTIOUS, THE APPEAL OF THE FEMALE CHARACTERS ISN'T COMMUNICATED AT ALL.
IF YOU WANT TO SELL ANYTHING NOWADAYS YOU NEED A MORE MODERN... WELL, CUTE-SEEMING DESIGN TO THE CHARACTERS.
ガーン
THIS WON'T DO AT ALL.
LIKE IN THIS SCENE, THE FEMALE CHARACTERS NEED A BETTER PORTRAYAL. THE READER SHOULD DESIRE THEM SO MUCH THAT THEY WANT TO HOLD THEM IN THEIR OWN ARMS.
MANGA ARTISTS SERVE THEIR READERS. AUTHORS NEED TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE MEETING THE NEEDS OF THEIR AUDIENCE BY CONSTANTLY RESEARCHING NEW APPROACHES.
…
INAMINE-KUN... ARE YOU REALLY SERIOUS IN YOUR APPROACH TO MAKING MANGA?
HAVE YOU THOUGHT THAT YOUR LIFE WOULD BE COMPLETE IF YOU CAN JUST MAKE MANGA?
I DON'T THINK I CAN CHANGE IT JUST TO TRY AND CHASE SALES...
I'VE REDRAWN IT DOZENS OF TIMES, BUT...
PLEASE REVISE THIS AND GET IT BACK TO ME.
YOU'RE STILL NOT QUITE AT THAT POINT YET INAMINE-KUN.

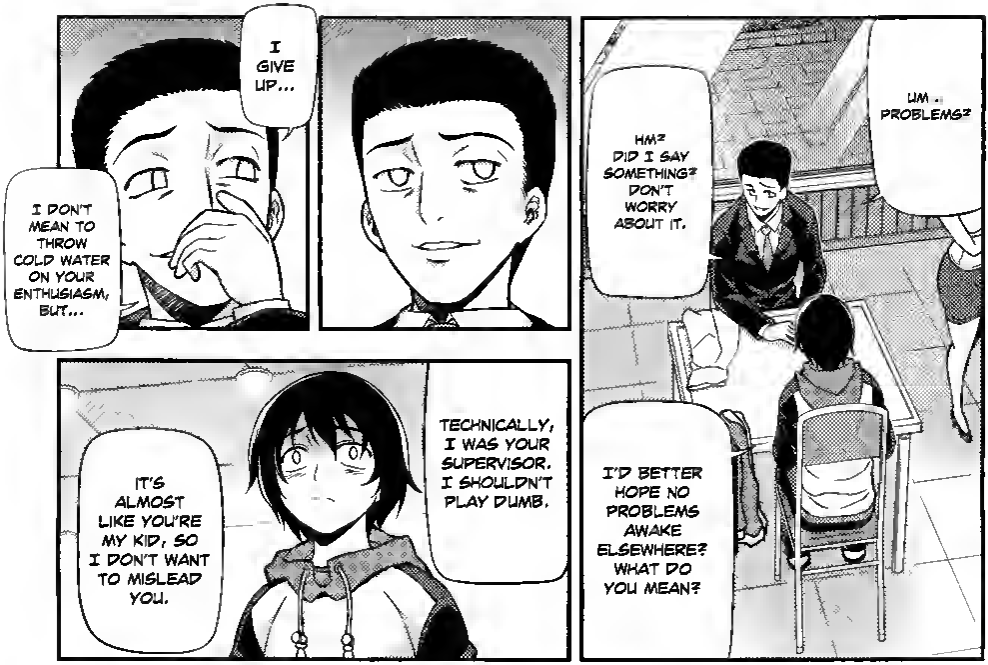
I'm gonna try my hardest! I'd work myself to the grave to live up to her expectations!
Up to this point, I've never had an editor who's been so frank with me before.



Desire them so much that they want to hold them in their own arms.
She can say something embarassing like that and make it sound normal and in front of a guy, no less.

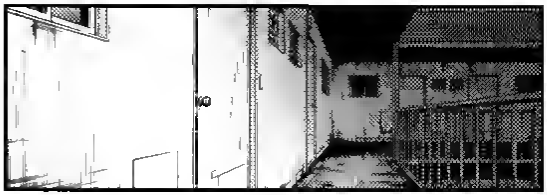
HEY, IS THAT YOU, INAMINE-KUN?
WHAT A COINCIDENCE TO RUN INTO YOU OUT HERE.
……!?
ASAHINA-SAN...?

Coffee Vin
IT'S NO WONDER YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN CONTACT LATELY.
WOW... YOU'VE JOINED UP WITH MONTHLY SPLASH, HAVE YOU?
UH HUH. SO YOU CAUGHT HER EYE, HUH?
RIGHT NOW IT'S ONLY A MANUSCRIPT FOR A SHORT... AND IT'S STILL NOT READY.
GETTING READY TO PUBLISH? I DON'T SEE YOU FOR A WHILE, AND NOW LOOK AT YOUR SUCCESS...
...
...
I'M HOPING I DON'T END UP SCREWING UP HER CAREER SOMEHOW ...
THAT'S WHY I'M WORRIED. FROM WHAT I HEAR, SHE'S A HIGH-POWERED EDITOR.
YOU'D JUST BETTER HOPE THAT NO PROBLEMS AWAKE ELSEWHERE.
...?
HIGH-POWERED, HUH? WELL, THERE'S CERTAINLY NO ONE WHO'S BEEN HER EQUAL IN TERMS OF RESULTS...


UM. PROBLEMS?
HM? DID I SAY SOMETHING? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'D BETTER HOPE NO PROBLEMS AWAKE ELSEWHERE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
TECHNICALLY, I WAS YOUR SUPERVISOR. I SHOULDN'T PLAY DUMB.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU'RE MY KID, SO I DON'T WANT TO MISLEAD YOU.
I GIVE UP...
I DON'T MEAN TO THROW COLD WATER ON YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BUT...

WHY DO YOU THINK SUCH A CAPABLE EDITOR WOULD LEAVE A MAJOR MAGAZINE TO BE A CHIEF EDITOR AT A B-GRADE PUBLICATION?
...!?

SHE'D GET "INVOLVED" WITH THE NEW TALENT.
SHE'S SOMETHING OF A CARNIVORE, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL HER.



And once she grows tired, she tosses them away.
Rumor is, when she finds a recruit she thinks she can use, she toys with them to her heart's content.

Those she'd spurned would end up working themselves to the bone to get their revenge, and some were even successful.

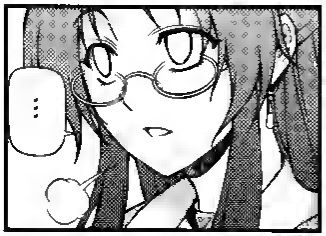
I'm sure she said that to you, right?

She has her lofty position. She's good at flattering recruits when they start and says that they're talented. They're putty in her hands.

Their successes became tied into her own career, but eventually she caused enough problems to get forced out of her job.

VOICE MAIL
NEW

チュンチュン
INAMINE-KUN? ARE YOU IN HERE?
キィ
…
ハダー
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
THE DEADLINE FOR THE MANUSCRIPT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TODAY AT FOUR IN THE AFTERNOON.
She likes buttering people up with talk about "talent" and so on.
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO IT...
…?


...

HOW DID YOU PUT IT... A WOMAN YOU DESIRE SO MUCH YOU WANT THEM IN YOUR ARMS...
AND HOW TO SELL WELL... I DON'T GET IT AT ALL.

ぴと

I'M SURE YOU'VE HAD SOME DESIRE FOR A GIRL OR TWO IN YOUR DAY, INAMINE-KUN!
I CAN BARELY BELIEVE I'M HEARING THAT FROM A 20-YEAR-OLD GUY!

THAT'S RIGHT! I'M A WORTHLESS VIRGIN!
ぴしっ

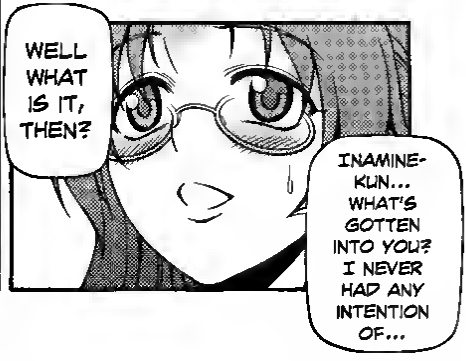
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE TELLING ME THAT YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED ROMANCE BEFORE, RIGHT? JUST THINK OF THE EMOTIONS YOU EXPERIENCED IN THOSE TIMES AND PUT THEM IN THE MANGA!
HA HA HA!
OR GEE, YOU'RE NOT... A VIRGIN, ARE YOU?

はあはあ
UM... INAMINE-KUN...?

AM I SO INTERESTING?
のしっ
...?

I'M A FRESH INEXPERIENCED NEW RECRUIT ...
IS THAT WHY I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH A GIRL LAUGHING AT ME BECAUSE I'M A VIRGIN?
...

IS IT FUN TO TEASE...
A STUPID, PATHETIC VIRGIN LIKE ME?


WELL WHAT IS IT, THEN?
INAMINE-KUN... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? I NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF...

I WAS JUST TRYING TO GIVE YOU ADVICE AS AN EDITOR. I'M SORRY.
IF I OFFENDED YOU THEN I APOLOGIZE.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL AS INSPIRATION.
...
You think I'm just gonna sit here and let you use me?!
ADVICE, HUH?
I'M A VIRGIN. THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED WITH WORDS.
I'M not a toy for you to play with!
YOU KNOW... I HAVE ONE FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN...
This is it! I'M gonna bite you before you get a chance to bite me!

WHAT...?
DO IT WITH ME.
ぶる

HAVE SEX WITH ME!
I'M sick and tired of all this!

THEN I KNOW I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE THE MANGA YOU'VE BEEN HOPING FOR!
So say it! Spit it out!
Say I could never work with a woman like you!
ぼっ
TO BE CONTINUED

THE
IRC://IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET/A-TEAM
A TEAM
PITY ALL OTHER SCANS!
WWW.IPITY.DAFOO.COM

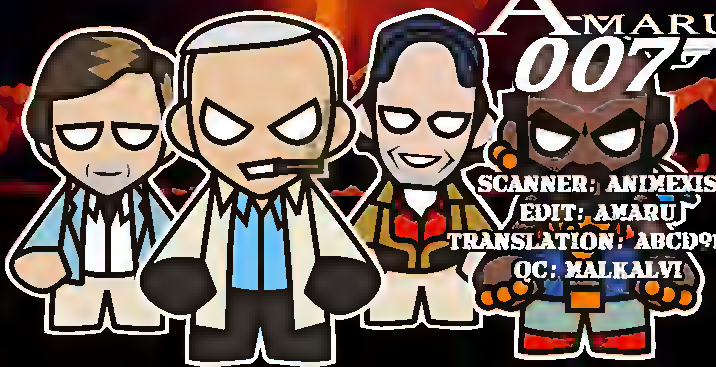
AND CHAPTER 2.

LOOKING FOR A NEW SCANNER FOR THIS. ANIMEXIS IS GOING TO BE BUSY IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE WITH A NEW JOB.
WHAT I NEED IS A SCANNER IN JAPAN, THAT CAN BUY AND SCAN ME THE CHAPTER FROM COMIC VALKARIE ONCE A MONTH.
I'LL PAY FOR THE MAGAZINE.
GET IN TOUCH IF INTERESTED.

NEW UPLOADING RULES:
24 HOURS BEFORE YOU CAN MIRROR IT,
48 HOURS FOR ONLINE READERS

AND FOR ALL YOU INTERNATIONAL SCANLATORS, CONTACT AND CREDIT US, IF YOU WANT TO USE OUR WORK.

AND DO DONATE PLEASE.



SCANNER: ANIMEXIS
EDIT: AMARU
TRANSLATION: ABCD9146
QC: MALKALVI

こいもく

CIMOC

STORY OF CARTOONIST AND TRUE LOVE / PRESENTED BY AETLIM MEDIA

INAMINE KOUTA

A YOUNG MAN ASPIRING TO BECOME A MANGA ARTIST. IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE HE CAME TO TOKYO, BUT HE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO PROGRESS MUCH AS A MANGA ARTIST, SPENDS HIS DAYS HOPELESSLY

SAWANOGUCHI HINATA

A YOUNG WOMAN LIVING NEXT TO KOUTA WHO HAS EXPLOSIVELY HUGE BREASTS. SHE DOESN'T JUST HAVE HUGE BREASTS, AND IS ACTUALLY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF COMIC SPLASH.

ASAHINA

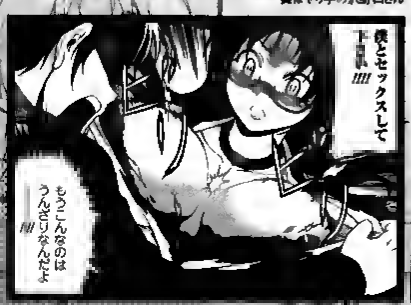
AN EDITOR OF COMIC HEAT. HE SENDS KOUTA TO DIFFERENT PLACES TO HELP OUT AS AN ASSISTANT, BUT IS AT WITS' END BY THE TROUBLE HE KEEPS ON CAUSING.

女編集長と漫画家を目指す少年との恋の物語!?

耕太。しがしアシスタント先では…トラブルばかり…家…むかいのお姉さんに振り回されて…そんな日々を…ある日、お隣りの…姉さんこと…野口3…人のネームに…を付け、自分はコミックス誌の編集長…乗り込む…業者、朝比奈に…日向が「新人食い」と呼ばれているという…た耕太は自…日向を押し倒してしまい…!!

貴はやり手の沢野口さん

お隣りの爆乳お…ーさん。このキャラは…天然?

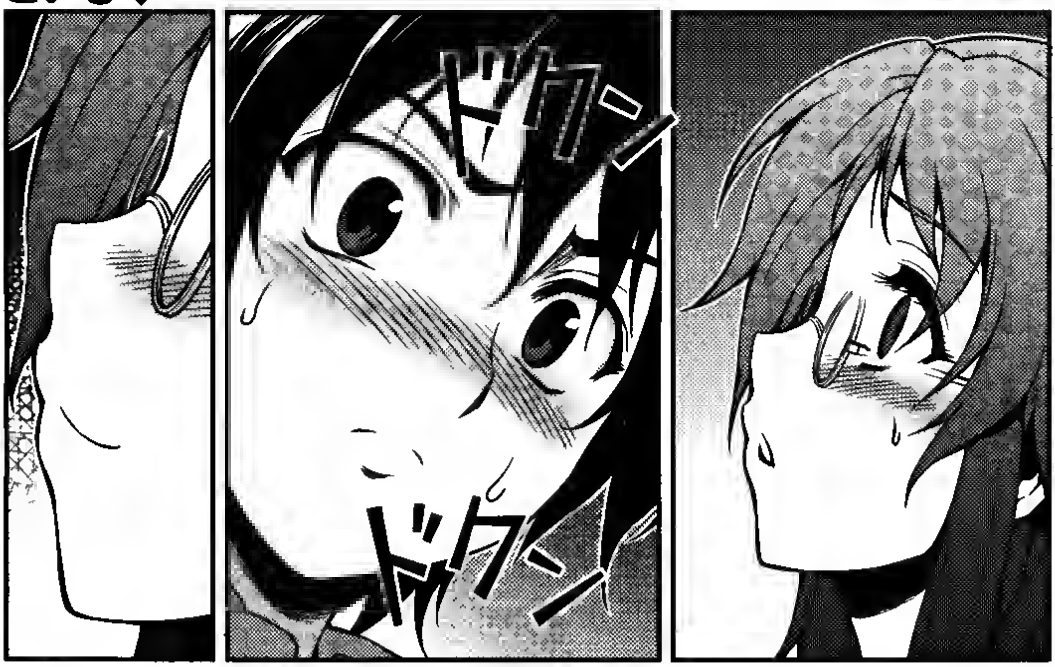


惑わす編集長も

スケベな指導。大先生から教自出し。

ADVICE?
I'M A VIRGIN SO I WON'T UNDERSTAND IF YOU JUST TELL ME.
THEN... I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK OF YOU, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN...
PLEASE HAVE SEX WITH ME!!!!
THEN I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO DRAW IT! THE MANGA THAT YOU WANT!!!
BREAKING THE DEADLINE, BREAKING HER BLOUSE, INAMINE-KUN BREAKS DOWN IN DESPERATION!

A ROMANTIC COMEDY BETWEEN A YOUNG ASPIRING MANGA ARTIST AND AN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF!
ALREADY CAUSING AN UPROAR!
こいもく
CIMOC
STORY OF CARTOONIST AND TRUE LOVE / PRESENTED BY ARTLIM MEDIA
story work 原作 林達
graphic work 作畫 海
by ARTLIM MEDIA


ドクン
ドクン

…!?
YOU'RE SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH WOMEN...
YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO POINT OUT?

AHH, WHAT HAVE I DONE NOW!?
YOU WON'T DO IT, RIGHT!?
I ASSAULTED THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF!! I'M GETTING FIRED, AREN'T I!? AHAHA!!
SO PLEASE LET ME SLEEP WITH YOU!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!!
IF DOING SOMETHING THAT FEELS GOOD WITH A YOUNG MAN CAN ALSO GET ME A GOOD PIECE OF WORK,
THAT'S KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
ALRIGHT.
EH!?
DAMN IT-! I KNEW SHE WAS JUST MESSING AROUND WITH ME!
TH-THEN...! YOU'RE SAYING IT'S OKAY!?

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE JUST MY EDITOR!?
YOU'LL REALLY HAVE SEX WITH ME!?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SINCE YOU'RE A VIRGIN...
!!
SINCE YOU HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH WOMEN, YOU CAN'T DRAW IT, RIGHT? THEN AS A PROFESSIONAL EDITOR, I'LL HELP YOU OUT.
THAT WOMAN, SHE'S ONE OF THOSE SO-CALLED ROOKIE EATERS.
SHE MESSES AROUND WITH THEM HOWEVER SHE WANTS AND ONCE SHE'S HAD ENOUGH, SHE'LL JUST THROW THEM AWAY.
IT WAS TRUE...
SAWANOGUCHI-SAN NEVER SAW ME FOR MY TALENT, INSTEAD SHE...
IN EXCHANGE ...

EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T MEAN IT, YOU DID ASSAULT THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, YOU KNOW?
YOU DO HAVE THE DETERMINATION, RIGHT?
IF AFTER SLEEPING WITH ME, AND YOU CAN'T MAKE A HUGE HIT...
OF COURSE, YOU'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, RIGHT INAMINE-KUN?

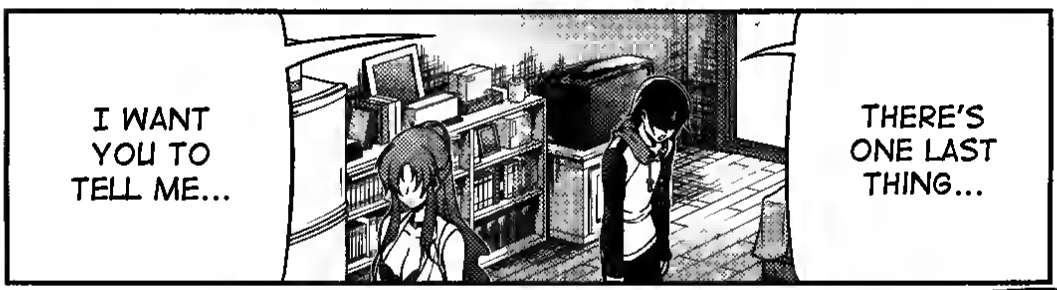
ぼーっ
THIS TROUBLE YOU FACE THAT MAKES YOU SOUGHT AFTER MY BODY...
YOU THINK THAT IT'LL WORK OUT BY HAVING SEX, RIGHT?
W... WELL...
WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED?
DON'T TELL ME YOU PUSHED DOWN YOUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
YET YOU AREN'T PREPARED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?

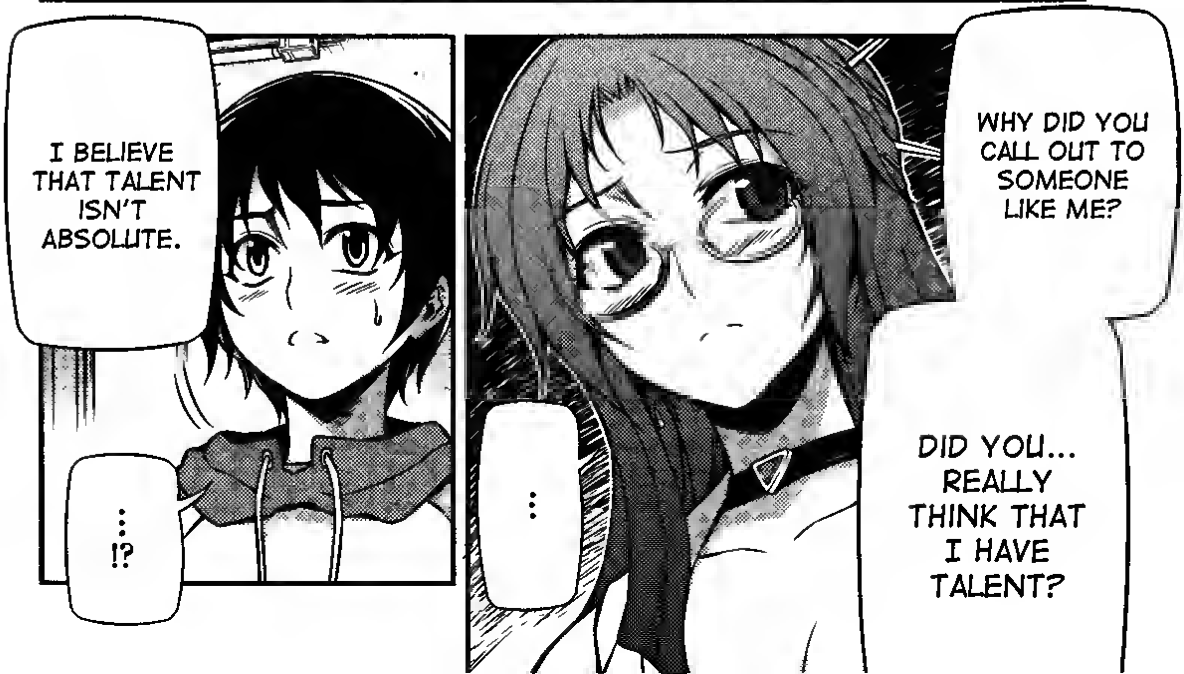
I WILL DO EVERYTHING TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY AS THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.
ズルッ!!
IF DOING SO WILL FREE YOUR TROUBLES AND GIVE YOU INSPIRATION...

COME ON, INAMINE-KUN,
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE...
P-PLEASE STOP IT!!

SO PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!!!
I'M SORRY!
IT WAS MY FAULT!!
スッ
I'VE MISJUDGED YOU.
IS THAT HOW CASUALLY YOU WERE TAKING BOTH ME AND THE JOB?
IS THAT SO...?

PL-
PLEASE
WAIT...
...?


I WANT
YOU TO
TELL ME...
THERE'S
ONE LAST
THING...

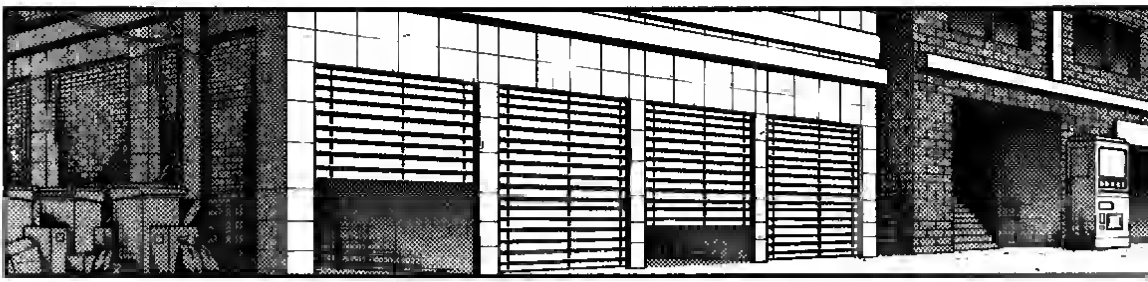

I BELIEVE
THAT TALENT
ISN'T
ABSOLUTE.
...
!?
...
WHY DID YOU
CALL OUT TO
SOMEONE
LIKE ME?
DID YOU...
REALLY
THINK THAT
I HAVE
TALENT?

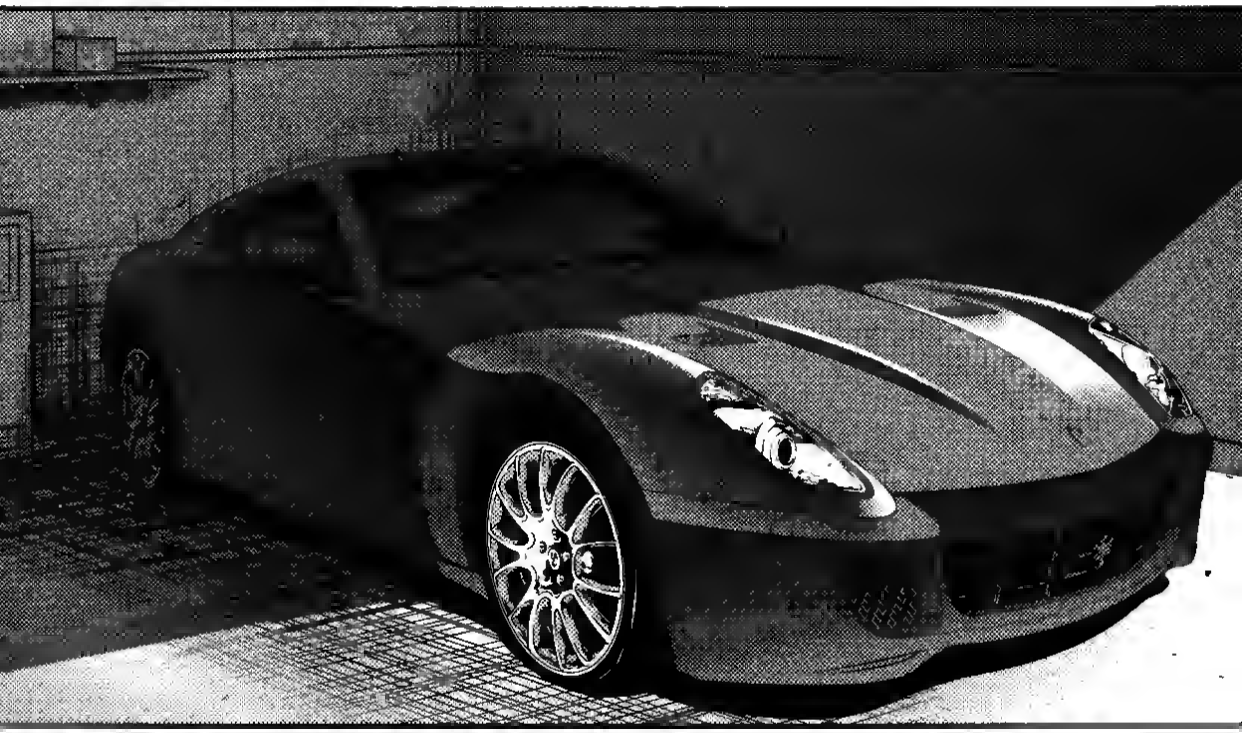
THE SIZE OF ONE'S TALENT IS NOT WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
IF THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE MASSIVE TALENT AND YET WITHER BECAUSE THEY CANNOT UTILISE IT....
THEN THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO WORK THEIR HARDEST TO SPLENDIDLY BLOOM THE LITTLE TALENT THEY HAVE.
I BELIEVE THAT THE IMPORTANT THING IS...
THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT YOU ARE WILLING TO PUT INTO BLOOMING YOUR TALENT NO MATTER HOW SMALL IT MIGHT BE.
AND THAT IS DEFINITELY NOT A SIMPLE TASK.
YOU WILL BE FACED WITH NUMEROUS HURDLES, THINK ABOUT KILLING YOURSELF A COUNTLESS NUMBER OF TIMES BEFORE THAT LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL IS FINALLY WITHIN REACH...

YOU ASSAULTED ME WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO WORK THROUGH IT STEP BY STEP...
IT REALLY IS UNFORTUNATE.

WELL THEN... GOODBYE.
ガチャ

バタン





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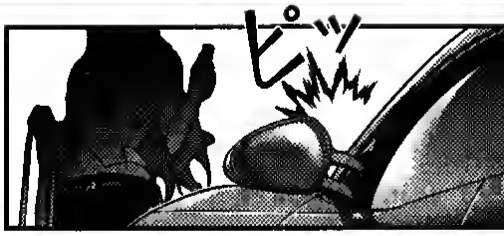

ピッ

ハンドル

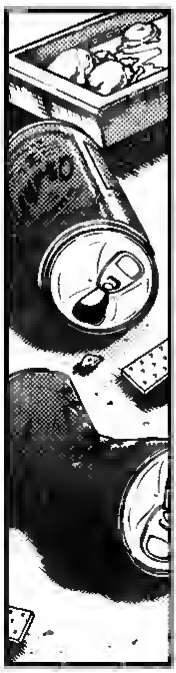
KIDS NOWADAYS WOULD BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT ...
AND HERE I THOUGHT THAT...
ブオーン
ブオーン
ブオオオーン

THE CHARACTER'S FEMININE CHARM ISN'T COMING THROUGH AT ALL IN THESE BLAND DRAWINGS.
PLEASE DRAW AN ATTRACTIVE CHARACTER THAT WOULD ENTICE READERS TO WANT TO EMBRACE THEM.
ANYHOW, IT'S... NOT LIKE I EVER HAD THE TALENT TO BECOME A MANGA ARTIST.
IT'S ALL OVER...
ボリボリ
I BELIEVE THAT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT YOU ARE WILLING TO PUT INTO BLOOMING YOUR TALENT.
THE SIZE OF ONE'S TALENT IS NOT WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
ARRGGHHH!

SFX: HAAH HAAH
はぁ
はぁ
I'M A DAMN VIRGIN WHO HASN'T EVEN FALLEN IN LOVE BEFORE!!
BUT I DON'T GET IT! HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO IT!!?
I DID DO IT! I WAS DESPERATE IN MY OWN WAY!!!
かち
ドラゴン…
AN ENJOYABLE DATE
03-0000
-ΔロXX
NOT TO MENTION SEX, I HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED A WOMAN'S BREASTS BEFORE!!!
ENJOYABLE
…
!!!
ED: NO I'M NOT REDRAWING THAT EITHER

HEY SIR...
むにっ
I'M FROM A DATING SERVICE WHERE TOUCHING ISN'T ALLOWED, UNDERSTAND?
YET YOU ASK ME TO LET YOU TOUCH MY BREASTS... HAVEN'T YOU GONE TO THE WRONG STORE?
OUR PLACE ISN'T ONE OF THOSE INDECENT ONES.
WHAT DID I GET MYSELF INTO...!?
ガラガラ
I-I'M SORRY!! I... I GUESS IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS UPSET, AND...!!
AND IT'S MY FIRST TIME DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS... SO I'M SORRY!
I'LL PAY DOUBLE!! SO PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!
...

WHAT KIND OF BAD DAY AM I HAVING TODAY...
JEEZ...

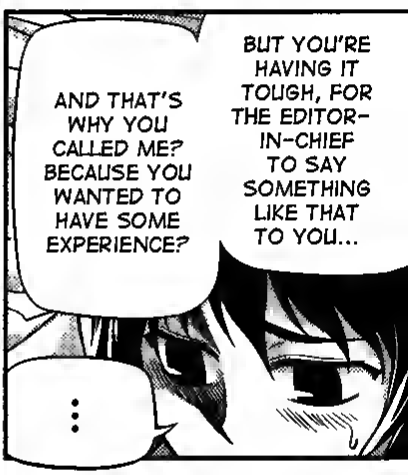


NORMALLY YOU WOULD HAVE TO TREAT ME TO SOME DELICIOUS FOOD OR SOMETHING AS WELL, OKAY?
O-OKAY...

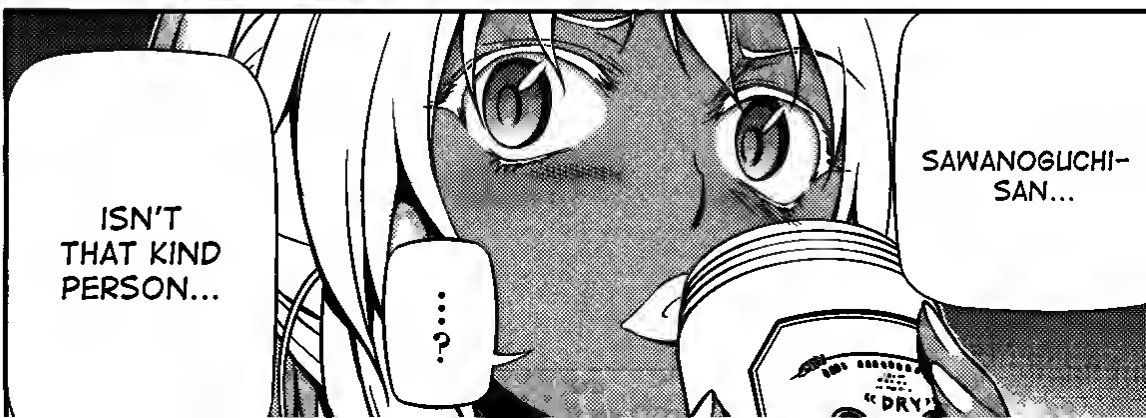
HUH ...?
BEER!!
YOU SAID THAT YOU'LL PAY DOUBLE, RIGHT?
I WOULD FEEL BAD IF I JUST TOOK IT FOR NOTHING,
SO I'LL HANG OUT WITH YOU TONIGHT.
RIGHT ...

I SEE... SO YOU'RE A MANGA ARTIST...
ペチペチ
NO... NOT A MANGA ARTIST, I'M STILL A NEWBIE AND A DROPOUT AS WELL...

SHE MIGHT HAVE ACTED BIG AND TRIED SAYING ALL THESE THINGS TO YOU. BUT IN THE END YOU DIDN'T GET ANY OF IT, RIGHT?
DIDN'T SHE JUST GIVE SOME VAGUE ADVICE REGARDING THIS AND THAT?

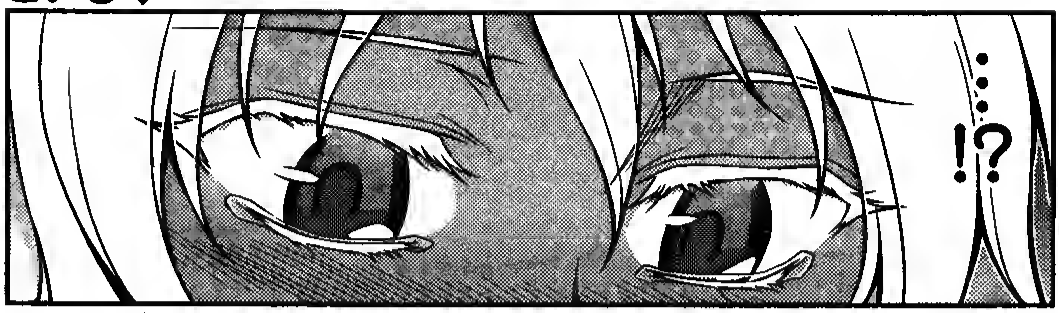

BUT YOU'RE HAVING IT TOUGH, FOR THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO YOU...
AND THAT'S WHY YOU CALLED ME? BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE?
...

BUT THAT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ISN'T REALLY THAT GOOD EITHER.


SAWANOGUCHI-SAN...
...?
ISN'T THAT KIND PERSON...
"DRY"

THAT PERSON CONFRONTED ME SERIOUSLY...
I'M JUST WORTHLESS... AND I COULDN'T MEET HER EXPECTATIONS...
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY. BEING HONEST IS CUTE!
EH? GET WHAT?
COME ON, TRY GETTING IT OUT.
YOUR MANGA!
I'LL BE YOUR FIRST READER.
EHHH!? IT'S OKAY! I DON'T MIND!!
ARGH! YOU'RE ANNOYING ME, SO JUST STAY QUIET!!
KO KO KO
WHY ARE YOU HOLDING BACK~
NOW I WONDER WHERE YOU KEEP YOUR MANUSCRIPT~
WAWAWAHH! I DON'T HAVE ONE! THERE IS NO MANUSCRIPT!
UGYAAHHHH!!!!

AH! IS THIS IT?
EHH... THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING A DRAFT MANGA.
...?
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE.
YOU DREW ALL THIS BY HAND?
I SAW ON TV AND STUFF THAT THESE DAYS THEY USE COMPUTERS TO DRAW...
THAT THING CALLED "3D" SOMETHING?
I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY NOR THE KNOWLEDGE FOR A COMPUTER...
ペラ
...!
SHE DEFINITELY WON'T LAUGH...
ドカーン
AT MY CRAPPY MANUSCRIPT ...
ドカーン


…!?

EHHH!? R-REALLY!?
OR ARE YOU DAMNING ME WITH FAINT PRAISE!?
DESPITE BEING A MAN, YOU UNDERSTAND A GIRL'S FEELINGS PRETTY WELL.
…DID YOU REALLY DRAW THIS?

COME ON… THIS IS GOOD…

…HUH?

BUT I JUST READ A LITTLE AND I GET THIS SENSATION OF MY CHEST TIGHTENING…
IT'S MY FIRST TIME EXPERIENCING THIS FEELING WHILE READING A MANGA…
I WONDER WHAT IT IS… MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THE PERSON WHO DREW IT IS IN FRONT OF ME?
トクン

IS SHE... REALLY PRAISING ME?
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE TO SAY THAT TO ME...
...BUT THEN,
くすっ
THE GIRLS AREN'T CUTE AT ALL!
IT'S JUST AS YOUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF SAID!
へへっ
そんな
HMM... A DEPICTION OF WOMEN THAT WOULD APPEAL TO MEN, HUH...?
I SEE. I GET IT.
EVEN IF A WOMAN LIKE ME SEES IT, IT WOULDN'T APPEAL TO ME AT ALL...
MAYBE... YOU'LL BECOME A REALLY INCREDIBLE MANGA ARTIST IN FUTURE.
WHY IS SHE COMING TO A CONCLUSION BY HERSELF!?
ME!? NO WAY ...

ALRIGHT !!
EEEK !!!
WH- WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
IT'S A FORWARD-LOOKING INVESTMENT! NOW FEEL THEM TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!
IT'S ALRIGHT! I'LL BE FINE!!
IT WAS MY FAULT!
AND YOU SAID EARLIER THAT YOU WEREN'T IN THAT KIND OF BUSINESS...
EHHH~ HATING IT SO OBVIOUSLY...
ムギュッ
!!
YOU SURE HAVE NERVE! VIRGIN-KUN!!

UPFFF!!!
I... CAN'T BREATHE!!
B-BUT...
THEY'RE SO SOFT... SO THIS IS A WOMAN'S...
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT WITH MY BREASTS...
THIS IS FOR A FUTURE BIG-SHOT ARTIST...
ST-STOP...!!
ST-STOP...!!
パフ
パフ
AND I GUESS I'M MORE USEFUL IN THIS DEPARTMENT THAN YOUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF~
SO WHAT IS YOUR DESIRE, SENSEI? YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING.
JUST...!!

I LEFT MY NUMBER~ SO CALL ME IF YOU EVER NEED ME~
I'LL SERVICE YOU AS YOUR FIRST FAN!
GO HOME PLEASE !!!
ハ〜ハ〜ハ〜
ボイッ
HM?
ズコー
I'VE HAD ENOUGH !
GOODBYE!
SO CUTE~
HEHE!

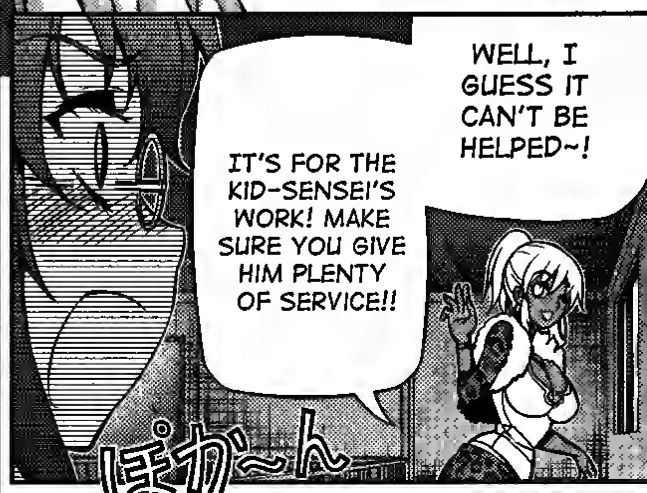
OH?

I SEE, I GUESS I REALLY WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH, HUH...? AS EXPECTED OF THE PROFESSIONALS ...
YOU HAVE A NICE BODY~ SO THIS IS THE TYPE THAT KID LIKES...

UM... THIS IS...
?

EH?
WHAT!? DON'T TELL ME YOU CALLED ANOTHER GIRL FROM ANOTHER PLACE TO HIT BACK AT ME!?
AND THIS TIME YOU GOT A REAL MASSAGE GIRL!?

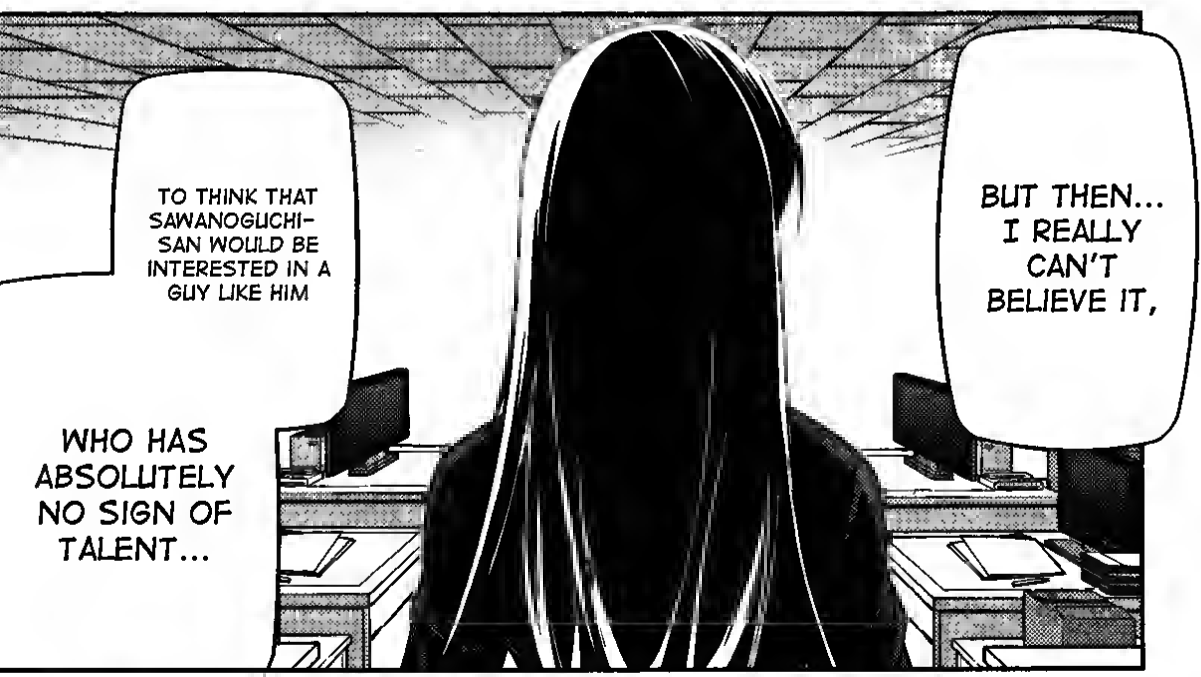
?


WELL, I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED~!
IT'S FOR THE KID-SENSEI'S WORK! MAKE SURE YOU GIVE HIM PLENTY OF SERVICE!!
ぽか～ん

バタッ
HAVE EYES FOR A GUY LIKE HIM...?
WHY DOES SAWANOGI-CHI-SAN...
NOT THAT I REALLY CARE, HUH?
フッ
フッ
THERE'S NO WAY I'D UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT WOMAN IS THINKING.
スッ

I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER HOW YOU TREAT A MANUSCRIPT SO ROUGHLY EVEN IF IT'S OWNER ISN'T AROUND.
"WEEKLY SHOUNEN COMIC HEAT" EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
JUUMONJI SAYAKA
EVERY MANUSCRIPT IS FILLED WITH THE HEART OF THE PERSON WHO DREW IT.
IT WOULD BE TROUBLE IF YOU DON'T TREAT THEM WITH RESPECT.
:
AH... EDITOR-IN-CHIEF!? THIS IS... UM...
THAT GUYS NOT REALLY AN ARTIST YET OR ANYTHING ...
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER THEY ARE A NEWBIE OR A VETERAN.
LIKE I SAID, NO, IT ISN'T. IT'S BY SOME GUY WHO'S STILL AN AMATEUR.
IT'S NOT EVEN AT A LEVEL THAT I WOULD NEED TO BRING UP IN MEETINGS.
IS THIS... FOR THIS TIME'S NEWCOMER'S AWARD?

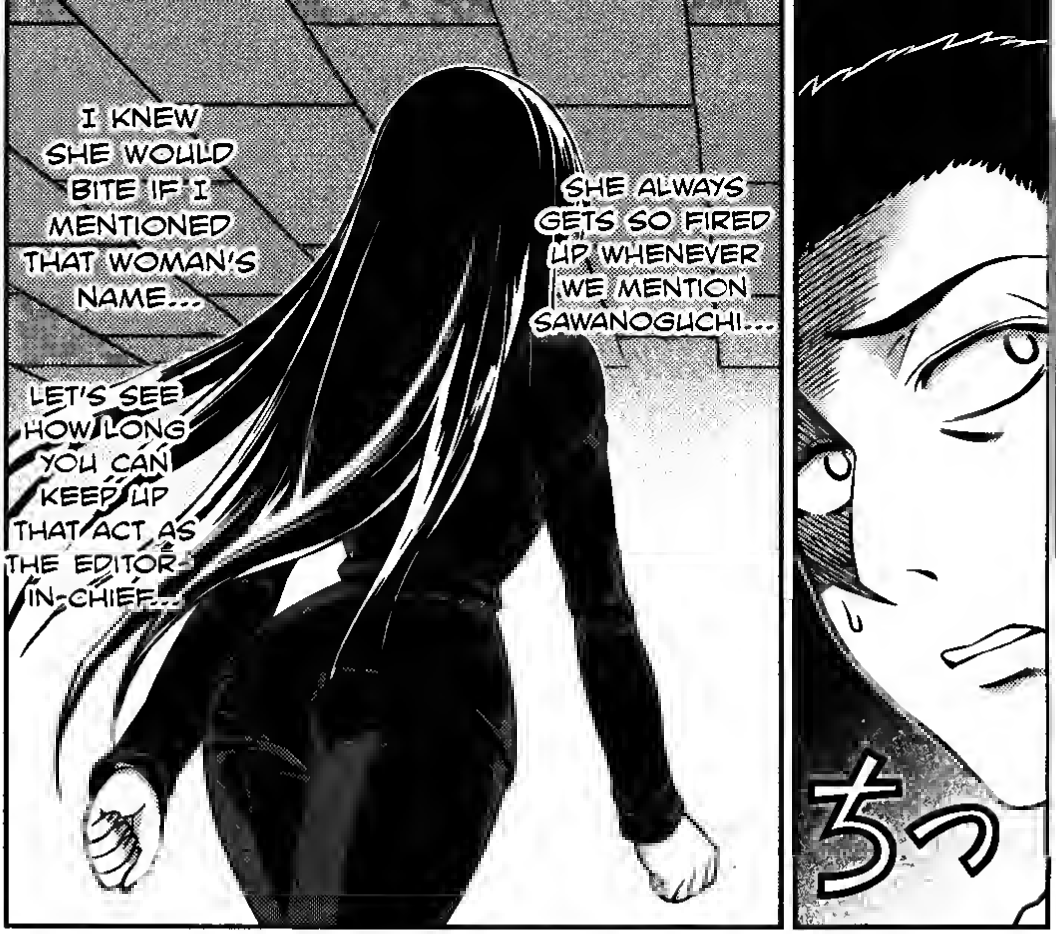
THEN YOU'RE SAYING... THAT HE'S STAYING AS AN ASSISTANT FOR A LITTLE LONGER TO BUILD UP EXPERIENCE...?
HOW IS HE AT MAKING STORIES? FROM WHAT I SAW, HE SEEMS TO BE PRETTY GOOD AT DRAWING FACIAL EXPRESSIONS...
HAHA, HE'S A GUY WHO CAN'T DO AN ASSISTANT'S JOB PROPERLY SO HE HAS NO POTENTIAL.
...!
コッ
コッ


BUT THEN... I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE IT,
TO THINK THAT SAWANOGUCHI-SAN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A GUY LIKE HIM
WHO HAS ABSOLUTELY NO SIGN OF TALENT...

ピタッ

DO YOU MEAN COMIC SPLASH'S SAWANOGUCHI HINATA-SAN?
THE COMPETENT FEMALE EDITOR WHO WORKED ON A NEWCOMER WHO PRODUCED BIG-HIT AFTER BIG-HIT.
YEAH. IN THIS INDUSTRY, WHENEVER WE MENTION SAWANOGUCHI-SAN, SHE'S THE ONLY ONE, RIGHT?
BINGO~
BUT THEN... SOME THINGS HAPPENED WITH THAT NEWCOMER,
AND SHE WAS KICKED OUT FROM THAT MAJOR MAGAZINE, RIGHT?
...
BY THE WAY, YOU'RE RIVALS, RIGHT?
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JUUMONJI, AND SAWANOGUCHI-SAN...
AH... I APOLOGISE.
I WAS A LITTLE CURIOUS, THAT'S ALL.
...I REALLY WONDER IF YOU SHOULD BE INSULTING SOMEONE LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE JUST GUESSING AND DON'T HAVE NO IDEA WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.
...

IT'S A BORING TOPIC.
RIVALRY IS THE ONLY THING YOU'LL FIND WHEREVER YOU LOOK IN THIS INDUSTRY.
FEMALE EDITOR-IN-CHIEFS IN WEEKLY SHOUNEN MAGAZINES SEEMED TO BE RATHER RARE, SO IT LOOKED LIKE YOU TWO WERE QUITE COMPETITIVE.
...
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY... WHO WAS IT THAT DREW THIS MANUSCRIPT?
EH? HE'S CALLED INAMINE KOUTA...
* - THE 'NAME' IS THE STORYBOARD FOR A MANGA CHAPTER. A REALLY ROUGH COPY WITH JUST PANELS DRAWN OUT, AND CHARACTER/BUBBLE PLACEMENTS.
I WANT TO SEE THE INCOMPLETE NAME OF THIS...
WILL YOU CONTACT HIM?
EHH~... ARE YOU SERIOUS?
LIKE I SAID EARLIER, HE REALLY HAS NO TALENT ...
ビクッ!
R-RIGHT!
SO, WILL YOU CONTACT HIM...?


I KNEW SHE WOULD BITE IF I MENTIONED THAT WOMAN'S NAME...
SHE ALWAYS GETS SO FIRED UP WHENEVER WE MENTION SAWANOGUCHI...
LET'S SEE HOW LONG YOU CAN KEEP UP THAT ACT AS THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF...
ちっ

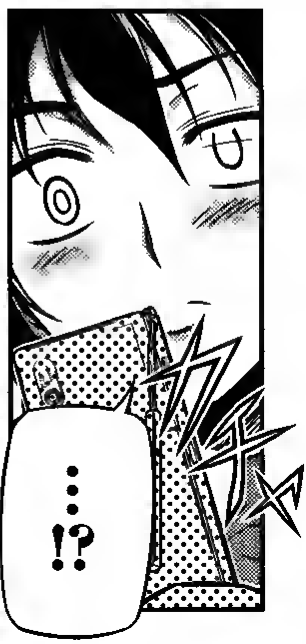
YOU CAN GRAB ONTO THAT BOMB CALLED INAMINE AND BLOW YOURSELF UP TO A GRAND FINALE AS WELL.
FINE, THEN. I'LL MAKE YOU REGRET EVERYTHING.

THIS ANNOYING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S CAREER WILL PROBABLY BITE THE DUST AS WELL.
ハ〜ハッハッハ〜
IF I CAN GET THE JUUMONJI WHO'S NOW DESPERATE FROM HER RIVALRY TO FORCEFULLY DEBUT INAMINE...

ピリリリリリ
ピリリリリリ

ピリリリリリ

YO~! INAMINE-KUN, HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH SAWANOGUCHI-SAN?
H-HELLO?
AH... WELL...
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT... IT'S OVER...


…!?

WHAT!? DID YOU MESS UP OVER THERE AS WELL!?
AND I GUESS SAWANOGUCHI-SAN'S EYE FOR PEOPLE IS STILL GOING STRONG IF SHE CUT YOU OFF BEFORE YOUR DEBUT.
REALLY, I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED, YOU'RE JUST...
HUH ...?
WELL, LEAVING THAT ASIDE... CAN YOU POP OVER TO OUR EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT LATER?
BUT DON'T MENTION TO ANYONE HOW YOU MESSED UP AT SAWANOGUCHI-SAN'S PLACE, OKAY?
MAYBE YOU'LL GET A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY.
...!?

ソワ
ソワ
HEY~ INAMINE-KUN.
AH! GOOD MORNING!
ヒソ
GOT IT? WHAT HAPPENED WITH SAWANOGUCHI-SAN IS A SECRET!
YEAH... BUT WHY?
ヒソ
CAN YOU AFFORD TO SCREW UP THIS GOLDEN OPPORTU-NITY?
R-RIGHT!
ガチャ
…!?

!!
A MODEL...? OR MAYBE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I-I WONDER WHO THAT IS...!?
THIS IS INAMINE KOUTA-KUN.
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.
EEHHH ...!?
E-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF!?
THIS PERSON!?

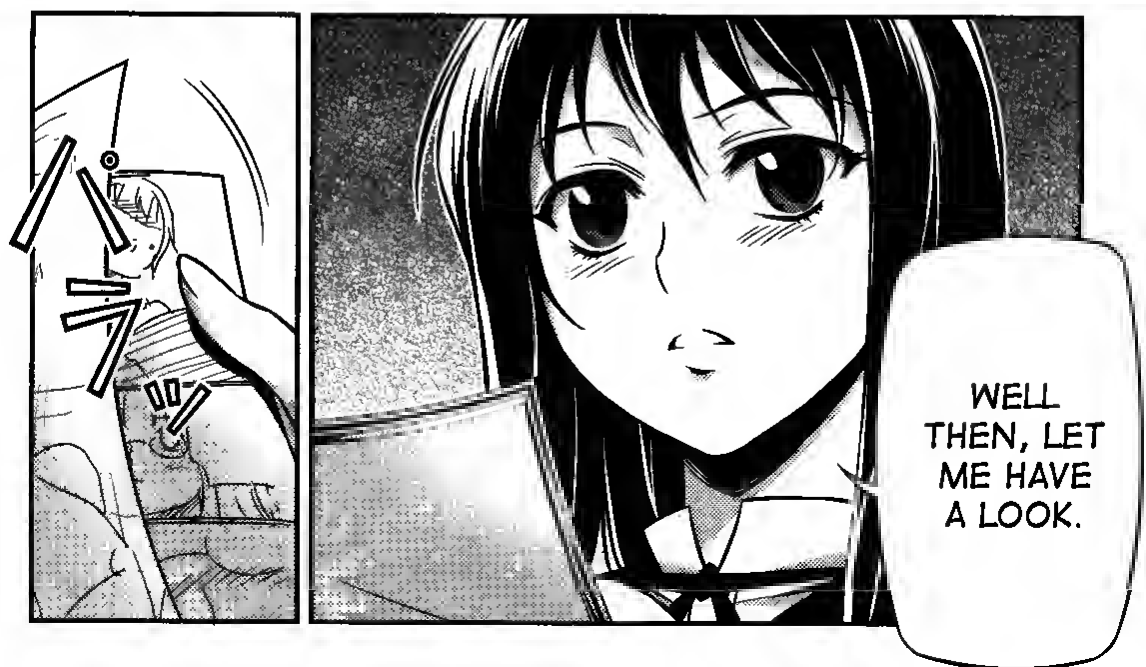
N-N-NICE TO MEET YOU! I'M INAMINE KOUTA!!!
NICE TO MEET YOU, I AM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOR COMIC HEAT, JUUMONJI SAYAKA.

MAY I SEE IT PLEASE?
YES! RIGHT AWAY ...!!
ガサッ
AH, YES!!
PLEASE, TAKE A SEAT. WELL, STRAIGHT TO THE POINT, DO YOU HAVE WITH YOU A NAME AND MANUSCRIPT THAT YOU DREW RECENTLY?
WHAT WOULD THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF WANT WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME ...!?
AND SHE'S TREATING ME SO POLITELY, IT'S ADDING TO THE PRESSURE!

UWAAAHHHH!!!

I-
I'M
SORRY
!!
I'M SO
SORRY
!!!
HMPH.
HE NEVER
CHANGES
...
クイッ
ASAHINA-
SAN,
YEAH?
HELP
HIM.
AH...
YES...
女性部隊
BUT,
I'VE BEEN
FIRED
ALREADY...
AH,
YES...
EH...
SPLASH'S
SAWANOGUCHI-
SAN CALLED
OUT TO YOU,
RIGHT?
BY THE
WAY...
I HEARD
THAT

TH-
THAT'S!!
I THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE TIME TO SEE ME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
...I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD FROM ASAHINA, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR NAME.
I'M HONOURED THAT THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IS WILLING TO LOOK OVER MY WORK!!


WELL THEN, LET ME HAVE A LOOK.

ピキ
THIS... NAME IS...!?
JUUMONJI'S EXPRESSION ...
CHANGED ...!?
JUUMONJI'S CUT-IN SHOT IS HERE! ARE THINGS REALLY HEATING UP!?
TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #7!!
月刊ヴァルキリー 2011年5月27日発売予定 7月号に続く!!

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RAWS
NJMANGA

こいもく

CIMOC

STORY OF CARTOONIST AND TRUE LOVE / PRESENTED BY ARTLIN MEDIA

女編集長と漫画家を目指す少年との恋の物語!?

ライバル意識?

注目?

注目

注目

十文字さやか

沢野口日向

稲峰耕太

朝比奈徹

峰龍二郎

???

本田泉

アシスタントで雇われるも大失敗

デートクラブで知り合う

1M-35B (135) made in JAPAN

FOR THE BEST CREATIVE WORK YOU NEED THE BEST MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

こいもく
COMOC
第3話
Did I just see her face change?
What on earth?
コミックス1巻7月下旬発売!
原作 林達
作画 海
by ARTUMMEDIA

THIS STORY-BOARD...
ドドド
ドキ
Y-YEES?!
Y-YES, IT DOES. I'VE BEEN A FAN OF OZMA EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
I ADMIRED HIM SO MUCH THAT I SET OUT TO BECOME A MANGA ARTIST.
...?
DID IT DRAW INFLUENCE FROM ANY WORKS BY OZMA?
I REALLY RESPECT HIM FOR HAVING SUCH A DIVERSE BODY OF WORK.
HE DIDN'T JUST MAKE LOVE COMEDIES AND SEX COMEDIES...
HE COULD PIERCE THE READER'S VERY HEART WITH SERIOUS STORIES. HE HAD AN UNBELIEVABLE REPERTOIRE.

WHOA, WHOA! ALL THIS RESPECT AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE.
YOU THOUGHT "OZMA" WAS AN AUTHOR'S NAME?
IT'S A COMPANY.
WHAT?!
HUH?
"OZMA" IS THE COMPANY'S PEN NAME, AS THEY CALL IT.
IT'S AN ORGANIZATION TO GATHER CONTENT CREATORS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR NATIONALITY.
THEIR CORPORATE STRUCTURE COULD GIVE US A RUN FOR OUR MONEY.
THE AUTHORS ARE ALL EMPLOYEES AND EVERYTHING IS DIVIDED UP BETWEEN THEM, FROM THE PLANNING TO THE PROFITS.
THEY'RE EMPLOYEES? AND THEY SPLIT THE WEALTH?!
THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT ON EARTH GAVE YOU THE IDEA THAT ONE PERSON DID EVERYTHING?
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A LIVING WITH MANGA, YOU REALLY GOTTA STUDY UP ON THE INDUSTRY MORE.

THIS REALLY IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT...
THE WORKS HAD CERTAINLY SPANNED A LOT OF GENRES, BUT... THERE SEEMED TO BE SOMETHING SHARED BETWEEN THEM.
...!!
INAMINE-SAN.
Y-YES?
SO BECAUSE YOU FELT OZMA'S WORKS SHARED CERTAIN COMMON ELEMENTS...
YOU DREW INSPIRATION FROM THEM?
OH, YES... I HAD NO IDEA THAT IT WAS CORPORATE WRITING.
FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE, IF YOU THOUGHT OZMA WAS A SINGLE AUTHOR...
THEN...
AMONG ALL THE WORKS, WHAT HAS MADE THE STRONGEST IMPRESSION ON YOU?
CHIEF... ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY SOMTHING?
CAN YOU ANSWER MY QUESTION, INAMINE-SAN?

It really is too bad.
To think you were willing to attack me without putting your earnest effort behind it...
...?
JUST HOW... FORMIDABLE THEY ARE.
OZMA'S WORKS HAVE STYLE AND ACTION...
THE FEMALE CHARACTERS ARE CUTE AND SEXY...
AND I HEAR THAT THEIR WORKS ALWAYS SET THE LATEST PRODUCTION TRENDS.
WHENEVER I READ ANYTHING BY OZMA, I GET GOOSEBUMPS.
IT HITS CLOSE TO HOME.

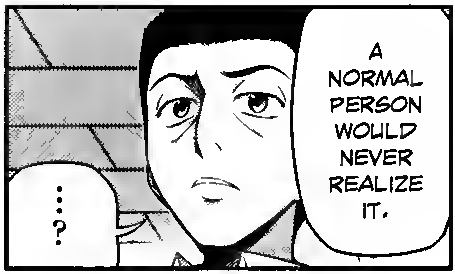
SOMETIMES IT SENDS SUCH A SHIVER DOWN MY SPINE THAT I HATE THE AUTHOR FOR IT.
AS I SAID, PIERCING THE READER'S HEART... IT'S AS IF THE AUTHOR CAN SEE RIGHT INTO MY SOUL.
...TO FIND ALL THESE WORKS WERE BROUGHT TO LIFE BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE.
BUT IT WAS THE LAST THING I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED...

ASAHINA-SAN.
YES?
ふっ
THE HARDCORE MANGA READERS WOULD NEVER...
ALL THE OZMA STUFF FOUND ITS SUCCESS FROM AIMING AT LIGHT READERS.
WHAT KIND OF GIBBERISH ARE YOU SPOUTING?
QUIET.
……!?
レろ
!!!

Did I say something wrong?
The atmosphere has gotten worse...
I knew this wouldn't work!
This time it's all over for sure!
NOW THEN... WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO TRY PUBLISHING THIS WITH US?
...!?
HUH?
IT COULD BE SOMETHING ORIGINAL, OR BASED ON THIS STORYBOARD.
WE WOULD LIKE TO TRY COMPLETING A MANGA WITH YOU, INAMINE-SAN. BUT...
I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU MAY BE ENTERTAINING AN OFFER WITH COMIC SPLASH, SO I WON'T FORCE YOU TO COMMIT TO ANYTHING.
ぼう

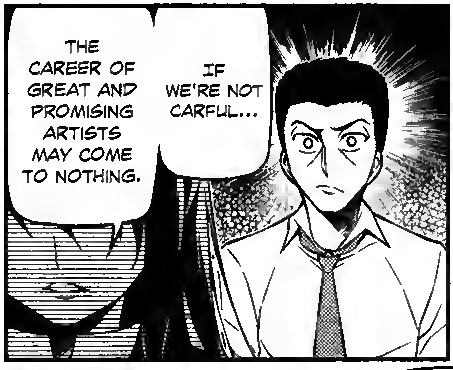
I...
I...
I...
I'D BE HONORED!

SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY FOND OF INAMINE, THEN.
SO MUCH SO THAT YOU WANT TO SNATCH HIM AWAY FROM COMIC SPLASH, I TAKE IT?
AREN'T YOU GETTING YOUR HOPES A LITTLE TOO HIGH JUST BECAUSE HIS WORK RESEMBLES OZMA'S STYLE?
AND NOT ONLY THAT, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE WHO THOUGHT THAT A COLLECTION OF ARTISTS WAS JUST ONE INDIVIDUAL.
THAT'S UNTRUE.
FROM PLANNING TO COMPOSITION, ALL OF OZMA'S WORK IS DONE BY A SINGLE PERSON.
?
WHAT?!


A NORMAL PERSON WOULD NEVER REALIZE IT.
...?

THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD BE TRUE.
THEY PUBLISH SIX WORKS IN JAPAN ALONE. THEY HAVE OVER 20 SERIALIZATIONS GOING ON ALL OVER THE WORLD.

BUT WE'RE EDITORS. WE CANNOT LET THIS KIND OF INSIGHT EVADE US.


IF WE'RE NOT CARFUL...
THE CAREER OF GREAT AND PROMISING ARTISTS MAY COME TO NOTHING.

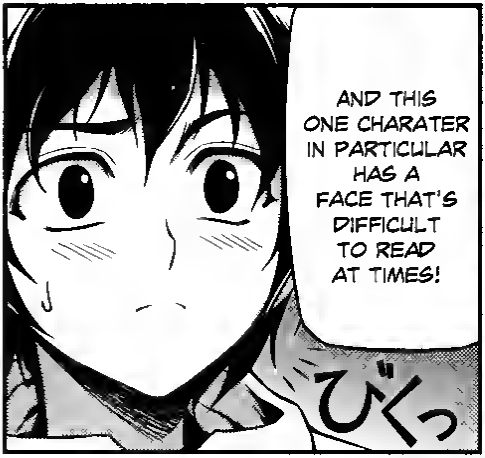
EVEN IF I'M YOUR SUBORDINATE AT WORK, THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO SAY THAT TO ME.
I'VE BEEN WORKING AT THIS SHOUNEN MAGAZINE FOR SEVEN YEARS.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
THAT THIS FACT CAUGHT YOUR OWN NOTICE, BUT NOT MY OWN? IS THAT IT?

SHALL I PUT IT A LITTLE MORE DIRECTLY?
BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE INAMINE KOUTA'S TALENT.

I'M TAKASHIMA YUU.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
I... I'M INAMINE KOUTA!
THE PLEASURE IS MINE!
I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS! AS FAR AS RECRUITS GO, YOU COME UNDER THE DIRECT RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF EDITOR!
OH, NO NO! I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE NERVOUS HERE!

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF READING YOUR STORY-BOARD.
THE CONTENT IS VERY SOLID. ESPECIALLY THE FACIAL EXPRESSIONS! THEY'RE VERY GOOD.


AND THIS ONE CHARATER IN PARTICULAR HAS A FACE THAT'S DIFFICULT TO READ AT TIMES!
びくっ

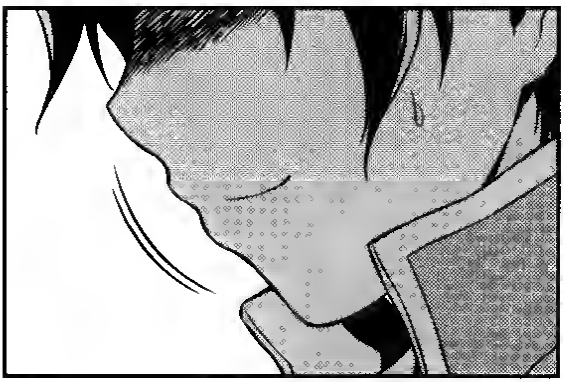
THEY'LL BE EVOCATIVE IN THE READER'S MIND...
AND THEY COULD EVEN BE SEEN IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT UPON SUBSEQUENT READINGS.

DIFFICULT... TO READ?
WHAT?

IS IT... A GOOD THING?
うーむ
OH, UM... YES... IN THE MANUSCRIPT, THE EXPRESSIONS ARE SUBTLE YET RICH...
WELL, THE FACES EXPRESS A LOT OF DIFFERENT EMOTIONS... ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?
BY THE WAY, IF WE KEEP WORKING ON THIS STORYBOARD, IT WON'T CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS WITH COMIC SPLASH, WILL IT?
AH... NO, THERE WON'T BE ANY ISSUES.
IF THERE ARE NO ISSUES, THEN I HAVE PERMISSION FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR TO KEEP WORKING ON IT.
IT'S PUT TOGETHER WELL, SO IT'LL DEFINITELY GET AN OKAY ON THE FIRST SHOT!
NO PROBLEMS? LET'S GET THE ARRANGEMENTS UNDERWAY, THEN!
MY POLICY IS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE STRENGTHS IN YOUR STORYBOARD, INAMINE-SAN!
AH... THANK YOU.

MULTI CINEMA

Please do your best to make sure they give us the okay from above!
I plan on interfering as little as possible!
My plan is to make the most of the strengths in your storyboard, Inamine-san!



They get how I work!
I'm gonna be fine!
THAT'S RIGHT! TELL THE PRINTER TO STOP RIGHT AWAY!
…!?
YES, I UNDERSTAND.
I'M GOING TO SEE YAMASE-SENSEI RIGHT NOW. CAN YOU TELL THE REST OF THE ARTISTS?
ﾉﾟﾉﾟﾉﾟﾉﾟ

...
It really is too bad.
To think you were willing to attack me without putting your earnest effort behind it...
SAWANOGU-CHI-SAN...

!!!
ARE YOU COMING HOME FROM WORK? YOU'RE A LITTLE EARLY.
YEAH... GOT OFF A BIT EARLY TODAY...
I'VE GOT SOMETHING VERY PRESSING...
I'LL SEE YOU NEXT TIME, INAMINE-KUN.

It's really like nothing ever happened...
Did I mean that little to her?
Did my manga mean that little?!
IT LOOKS LIKE...
MY MANGA WILL BE PUBLISHED.

I EVEN MET THE CHIEF EDITOR AND THEY GAVE ME A NEW BOSS.
I THINK THE MANUSCRIPT IS NEARLY READY.
……
IT WILL BE IN COMIC HEAT...
THEY LIKED MY STORYBOARD.
……!?
THAT'S GREAT.
IT'S FANTASTIC TO HEAR THAT YOU COULD MEET SOMEONE WHO COULD RECOGNIZE YOUR TALENT, INAMINE-KUN.
PLEASE GIVE IT YOUR BEST EFFORT!

EVERY CHIEF EDITOR HAS THEIR OWN CRITERIA!
WELL, I NEED TO GET GOING!
Why...
is this so painful...?
What could be great about this?
What about my manga...
She doesn't care if someone else gets their hands on it?

Dammit!
I'll show her!
I'll
make a work
that will leave
Sawanoguchi-san
speechless!

YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS VERY PROMISING!
THE CUT LINES AND FLOW LOOK LIKE A REAL MANUSCRIPT.
WELL, I WAS PRETTY FIRED UP...
YOU DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO CLEAN IT UP SO MUCH!
THE DEADLINE IS STILL TWO DAYS AWAY AND YOU'RE ALREADY FINISHED?
AND YOU HAVEN'T LEFT OUT ANY DETAILS ON THE STORY-BOARD!
YEAH ...
ほ～う
SO... HOW IS IT?
HUH?
OH, IT LOOKS GREAT TO ME. I'LL HAVE THE CHIEF EDITOR CHECK IT OUT RIGHT AWAY.
A MANUSCRIPT CREATED WITH THIS MUCH PASSION SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS GETTING THROUGH!

I'M SURE IT WILL GO VERY WELL, SO PLEASE JUST WAIT AND RELAX.
AFTER ALL, SHE GAVE THE OKAY AFTER LOOKING AT THE INITIAL DRAFT, RIGHT?
This feels great!
I worked as hard on that as anything I've ever done in my life!
RRGH!
NOT AGAIN!

THIS IS TERRIBLE, CHIEF EDITOR!
OOOH, BUT IT'S A TOUGH GAME, IZUMI!
HOW CAN YOU PLAY VIDEO GAMES AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
IT'S OKAY. THIS ONE'S A COLLABORATION WITH SOME OF OUR MATERIAL.
I'VE HEARD A RUMOR THAT...
INAMINE KOUTA IS PREPARING A SHORT FOR COMIC HEAT!

I'M AWARE OF IT.
WHAT? YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS?
WE WON'T BE PUBLISHING HIS WORK. IT WILL ONLY BE COMIC HEAT.
WASN'T HE GOING TO MAKE HIS DEBUT WITH US?
HE WAS THE FIRST NEW RECRUIT THAT YOU PICKED UP DIRECTLY IN A LONG TIME!
YOU REALLY DON'T MIND THAT HE'S TWO-TIMING US WITH ANOTHER COMPANY'S MAGAZINE?!
WHAT?!
COULD THEY HAVE POSSIBLY LURED HIM AWAY? THOSE UNDERHANDED BASTARDS!
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED.
IT'S NOT OUT OF THE ORDINARY. AUTHORS HAVE A RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR PUBLISHERS.
INAMINE-KUN CHOSE COMIC HEAT. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

WE WEREN'T ABLE TO STOP HIM. WE SHOULD BE REFLECTING ON OUR OWN SHORTCOMINGS.
ぐるっ
…
I SEE... SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DEPRESSED.
HM? WHAT GIVES YOU THAT IDEA?
NORMALLY YOU DON'T PLAY GAMES.

HUH?
IT'S... GOING TO NEED A RETAKE.
THE CHIEF EDITOR SAID YOU NEED TO... LOOSEN IT UP A LITTLE...
LOOSEN IT UP?
COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC?
I ASKED ABOUT THAT TOO...
SHE SAID THAT IT WAS A CHALLENGE THAT WOULD BE LEFT TO YOU, INAMINE-SAN.

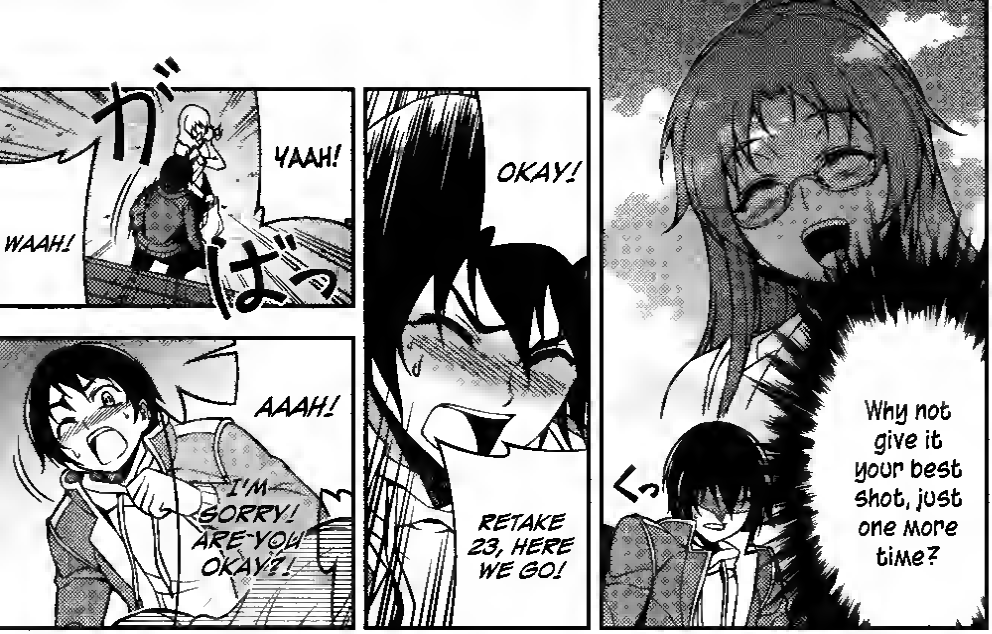
What should I be fixing?
Maybe part of the artist's job is thinking about this stuff too?
With all the cuts I've made lately, I thought the pictures would set the scene more than the dialog...
What could she mean by "loosen it up," though?
Did I make too many cuts?
I see. Maybe I'm trying to express so much information that it doesn't end up coming across at all!
The information given to the readers should always be brief.
With fewer cuts, it will be easier to read.

The information in each scene should be kept to an absolute minimum!
Any redundancies need to be compressed as much as possible!
That's it!
ANOTHER RETAKE!
The character expressions are obscured? They aren't coming through visually?
THE CHARACTER EXPRESSIONS ARE SO OBSCURED THAT THEY DON'T READ WELL.
THE FEEDBACK I'M GETTING NOW IS THAT THE CHARACTERS AREN'T COMING THROUGH VISUALLY.

Takashima-san said the expressions could be seen in a new light during re-readings!
I'll keep the expressions muted most of the time and play them up for the big moments! I have to preserve consistency!
This is really bad! Right now it doesn't express the personalities at all!
ANOTHER RETAKE...
SORRY... ANOTHER RETA...
GOT IT! I'LL GET THE CORRECTIONS TO YOU SOON!
Could it be that I'm trying to cram too much content in to fit the pages?
I'll add some more pages in and reorganize this!

2011 / 02 / FEBRUARY
13
SUN
2011 / 02 / FEBRUARY
18
FRI
2011 / 02 / FEBRUARY
20
SUN
2011 / 02 / FEBRUARY
23
WED
FEBRUARY
28

IT'S BEEN A MONTH NOW...
AND IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT RETAKES...
I'VE REDRAWN THAT STORYBOARD OVER TWENTY TIMES NOW.
THIS IS THE STORYBOARD I MADE WITH SAWANOGUCHI-SAN...
AND I'VE PUT MY HEART AND SOUL INTO IT.
CHIEF EDITOR JUUMONJI APPROVED OF IT AT FIRST, SO...
WHY IS IT AFTER THAT IT'S JUST BEEN NON-STOP RETAKES?
It felt like...
I was one step away from getting published
And I'm still not there...


Why not give it your best shot, just one more time?
Kっ
OKAY!
RETAKE 23, HERE WE GO!
YAAH!
ガ
ばっ
WAAH!
AAAH!
I'M SORRY! ARE YOU OKAY?!

OWW...
・・・・・・!

YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU?
I-I'M SORRY! I WASN'T LOOKING IN FRONT OF ME!
どた
ばた
…?
…!
…
HUH? WHY DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
HAVE I... MET YOU SOME-WHERE BEFORE?
INAMINE KOUTA-SAN.
I'M FINE...
…?
I REMEMBER ...
THAT WAS THE NAME ON THE MANUSCRIPT.

MY MANU-SCRIPT? WHAT DO YOU...
ARE YOU FROM THE PUBLISHER?!
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T REALIZE IT!
フルフル
...
N-NO? YOU'RE NOT? THEN...
ぱっ
ズ!!

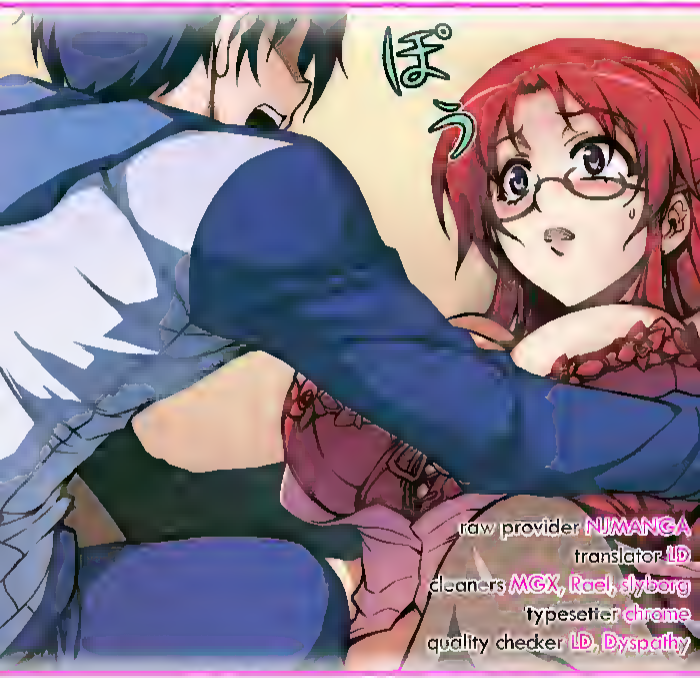
ぼう
…
…
…
NOT GETTING IT YET?
UM... NO...
むっ
HOW ABOUT IF I DO THIS?

MMGH!
MMF...
Maybe you could just tell me?
SORRY... I DON'T HAVE ANY CLUE...
What is she...?!

ドン
ドン
Whaaa?!
It can't be! I remember this feeling ...
No way ...
Could she really be...

FROM THE DATE CLUB?!
ドドーン
BINGO!
I didn't think I'd figure it out this way...
That was make-up...
But... wait, what about your skin?

こいもく
Koimoku
Chapter 04



FTH & Soba Present.... MOAR KOIMOKU!

So LD is out for a month, what do we do?
Sit back and wait? Hell naw.
Here's another delicious chapter of
Koimoku for your enjoyment.

こいもく

KOIMOKU

第4話

コミックス1巻
7月下旬発売予定!

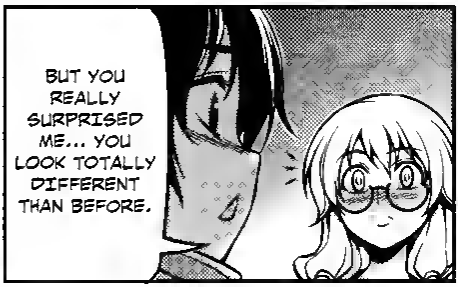
原作 林達

作画 海

by AKITUM MEDIA

MY NAME IS FUJIWARA MIKI.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU AGAIN.
ぽんっ
O-OH... YEAH...

UM... DON'T TELL ANYBODY, OKAY?
?

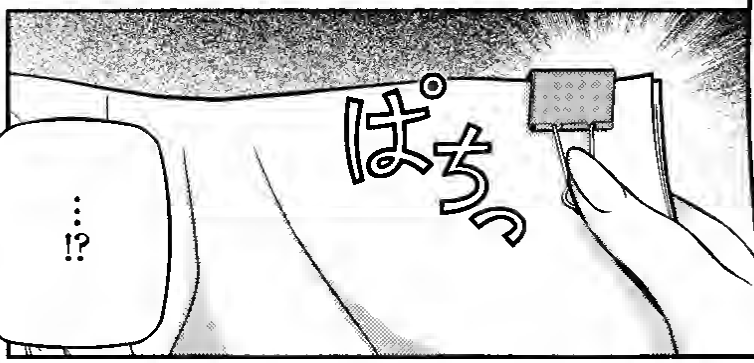

BUT YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME... YOU LOOK TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE.

I'D LIKE IT TO STAY A SECRET...
THAT I DO THIS KIND OF JOB...

かあ
YOU KNOW... YOU REALLY ARE NICE...
HUH?
THAT... THAT'S RIGHT! THERE'S NOTHING SKETCHY ABOUT SPENDING A LITTLE TIME WITH GUYS WHO NEED SOME LOVE!
O-OH! OF COURSE!
AND I DON'T THINK WORKING AT A DATE CLUB IS THE LEAST BIT SKETCHY!
She's cute...
ぽう
OH... THANKS...
But she's way out of my league.
.....
YOUR KINDNESS CAME THROUGH WHEN I READ YOUR MANGA.
I'D FELT IT BEFORE, SOMEHOW...

SO DID YOU MAKE YOUR DEBUT?
HUH?
WITH YOUR MANGA, I MEAN.
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DEBUT.
I'M STILL WORKING THAT OUT...
IT'S KIND OF GOTTEN STUCK RIGHT NOW.
THE... STORYBOARD, WAS IT? IT STILL HASN'T GOTTEN PAST THAT POINT?
びくっ
!?
FUJIWARA-SAN.
I'M SORRY THIS IS SO SUDDEN, BUT COULD I GET YOU TO LOOK AT MY STORY-BOARD ONE MORE TIME?
ME? REALLY? YOU KNOW I'M A TOTAL NOVICE WHEN IT COMES TO THIS STUFF...

THAT'S OKAY! JUST TELL ME WHATEVER YOU THINK WHEN YOU'RE READING IT!
IT WOULD HELP ME A LOT!
...!
IF IT'S OKAY ...
FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO READ IT...
ドキ
ドキ
Somehow this makes me even more stressed out than if one of my managers were reading it...



IT REALLY IS GREAT...

IT'S A LOT EASIER TO READ THAN IT USED TO BE. IT WAS REALLY INTERESTING!

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT PART!

RE... REALLY?!

I'M SURPRISED IT'S CHANGED SO MUCH IN SUCH A SHORT LENGTH OF TIME...

I GUESS IT SHOWS YOU REALLY HAVE TALENT!

IT'S THE RESULT OF DOZENS OF RETAKES.

IT'S COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE ORIGINAL.

OHH... YOU DON'T SAY...

HUH? OH, NO, I THINK YOU MIGHT BE MISTAKEN ...

…?

IT LOOKS LIKE GETTING SOME PHYSICAL EXPERIENCE HAS REALLY HELPED THE MANGA GROW.

HUH?
I GUESS THE PERSON WHO CAME AFTER I LEFT WAS THE ONE WHO REALLY HELPED YOU OUT, RIGHT?
?
WHICH... PERSON?
I GUESS MY WHOLE KOGAL GET-UP IS A LITTLE HARDCORE ...
AND IT SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS REALLY NICE.
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU...?
IF ONLY I'D TRIED A LITTLE HARDER BACK THEN...
Jeez... I don't get her at all.

ANYWAY, YOU'RE WORKING WITH A BONA-FIDE EDITOR NOW, HUH?
I'M SURE YOU'LL MAKE YOUR DEBUT VERY SOON.
I SURE HOPE SO...
OH! I NEED TO GET GOING.
I'M STILL NOT DONE SHOPPING.
OH, I'M SORRY. I'VE BEEN KEEPING YOU...
NO NO. I'M HONORED THAT YOU'D LET SOMEONE LIKE ME READ THIS WORK BEFORE IT'S FINISHED.
OH! I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU!
I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT YOU COULD BREAK ME OUT OF A FUNK ONE MORE TIME!

IF IT'S ALRIGHT... COULD YOU CALL ME MIKI?
I LIVE NEARBY AS WELL.
SINCE WE'RE NEIGHBORS, I'M SURE I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON, INAMINE-SENSEI!
Wow...
Inamine-sensei?
IT'S STILL EARLY FOR THAT YET!
I NEED TO GO BACK AND FIX THE STORY-BOARD!

THE CHIEF EDITOR'S EVALUATION WAS VERY FAVORABLE THIS TIME!
OH... OH REALLY?
Not another retake!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET CONCRETE DETAILS FOR THE NEXT REVISION!
WHAT WERE THE DETAILS?
HMM...

SHE SAID YOU NEED TO USE THE APPEAL OF THE FEMALE CHARACTERS A LITTLE MORE.
She said you need to use the appeal of the female characters a little more.
I'll leave it up to you how you want to accomplish that, Inamine-san!
What's the deal with this?!
They hadn't given any concrete advice since the beginning, and I went through retake after retake...
And then when I finally get a little, it's something I could have heard anywhere! Dammit!

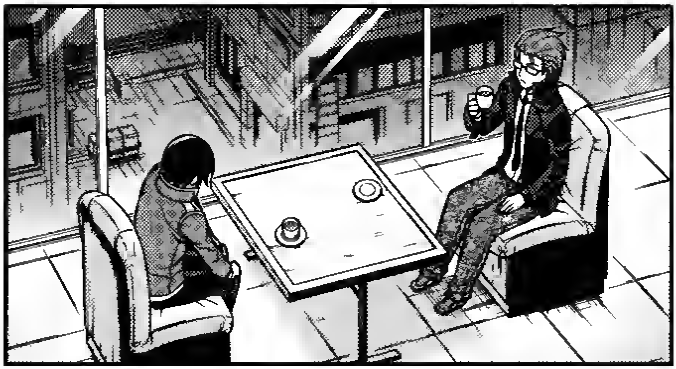
WE'LL BE EAGERLY AWAITING THE NEXT EPISODE, SENSEI!
YEAH... I'LL SEND IT ONCE I HAVE THE PLOT READY.
Are all the chief editors at major magazines like this?
はあ
YOU THERE, AREN'T YOU...
Eeeeek!

M-M-M-M!...
MINERYUU JIROU-SENSEI!
INAMINE... KOUTA-KUN, IF I RECALL CORRECTLY?
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO WORRIED. I WAS ACTING CHILDISH BACK THEN AS WELL.
WHEN IT COMES TO MANGA, I CAN GET A LITTLE HOT-HEADED, EVEN THOUGH I SHOULDN'T.
...!!
N-NO! YOU WERE RIGHT, THOUGH!
AND I DEFINITELY HAD A LOT TO THINK ABOUT!
THANKS FOR UNDER-STANDING.
AH! Y-Y-YES!
PERHAPS WE SHOULD GET GOING.
HMM...
YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL YOU HAD THE CHANCE TO LEARN SOME-THING FROM OBSERVING HIM WORK.
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR DEBUT THAT YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD FOR.
AH! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

IT SURE MUST BE NICE TO MAKE IT BY ON LUCK AND NOT REAL MERIT.
HE ONLY CAUGHT THE CHIEF EDITOR'S EYE BY COINCIDENCE.
...?
YOU MEAN JUUMONJI-SAN?
HE'D JUST HAPPENED TO BE TIED UP WITH SAWANOGUCHI.
SAWANOGUCHI?
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SAWANOGUCHI HINATA?
YES... HE'D CAUGHT SAWANOGUCHI-SAN'S EYE IN THE BEGINNING.
BUT FOR SOME REASON IT SEEMS LIKE IT ALL FELL THROUGH.
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT EVEN SAWANOGUCHI-SAN'S EYE FOR FINDING NOVICES HAS BEGUN TO FADE.

The appeal of the female characters?
SFX: *HONK HONK*
パ
パ
WHAT?!
What should I do to make the readers enchanted by them?
And now that I think about it, I feel like I've heard this before...

MINE...
SENSEI?!



What could he possibly want with me?!
ガタガタ
He's an author who sells a million copies of each manga he makes!

HUH?!
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU...
I WANTED TO SEE THE MANUSCRIPT OF THE WORK THAT YOU'RE PREPARING FOR COMIC HEAT.
MAY I SEE YOUR STORY-BOARD?
OH, YES! OF COURSE!
Wait...
YES! RIGHT AWAY!
...
IT... IT WOULD BE AN HONOR TO HAVE YOU LOOK IT OVER, SENSEI!
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ペラッ
ペラッ

ドドーン
I feel like I'm being squished like a bug!
Why can't this time pass any faster? I'm begging you!
ドドーン
I FEEL LIKE SOME PARTS OF THIS RESEMBLE OZMA'S WORKS.
……!
DO... DO YOU LIKE THEM TOO, SENSEI?
YES, THAT'S BEEN A BIG INFLUENCE!
I REALLY LIKE A LOT OF OZMA'S STUFF.
OZMA'S MANGA, I MEAN!
THEY KEEP TO A PROFESSIONAL STANDARD.
I SEE... THEY'RE CERTAINLY PUT TOGETHER WELL.

NO. I DON'T.
I SIMPLY RECOGNIZE ITS WORTH. THAT'S ALL.
IS THIS THE STORYBOARD YOU'VE BEEN MAKING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JUUMONJI-SAN?
YES...
ガーン
Maybe I shouldn't have even asked him...

ACTUALLY... THE CHIEF EDITOR HAS MADE ME DO MORE THAN TWENTY RETAKES...
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET MUCH SPECIFIC ADVICE ABOUT IT.
HMM... SO YOU'VE HAD TO BRING IT TO THIS DEGREE OF COMPLETION ON YOUR JUDGEMENT ALONE?
WELL, UH... I...
Is he really... praising it?
The information given to the readers should always be brief.
With fewer cuts, it will be easier to read.
Keep the expressions muted most of the time and play them up for the big moments.

I want the first concern in your mind to be how to make the female characters appeal to the readers!
!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
THE DEGREE OF COMPLETION IN THIS STORY-BOARD IS EXCELLENT.
THE TRACES OF YOUR PAINSTAKING EFFORTS SEEPS THROUGH IN PLACES. I'M SURPRISED THAT A NEWCOMER LIKE YOURSELF COULD COME THIS FAR ALONE.
WELL, I HAVEN'T DONE IT ALONE...
It can't just be the art. Everything from their conduct to their mannerisms must set the scene. It must all work together!

IT WAS UNDER THE ADVICE AND CONSULTATION OF SAWANOGUCHI-SAN FROM COMIC SPLASH...
CARE TO EXPLAIN?
...THAT THIS STORYBOARD WAS IMPROVED AND REVISED.
SAWANOGUCHI-SAN...
.....
THE SAME SAWANOGUCHI HINATA...
...WHO'S GIFTED WITH THE TALENT OF ELEVATING NOVICES TO LOFTIER HEIGHTS?

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT SAWANOGUCHI-SAN?
WELL, I CAN'T VERY WELL SAY THAT I DON'T.
BUT ANYWAY ...
Even if you're a novice, you've heard of Mineryuu Jirou, the guy who lays the golden eggs, right?
Now that I think about it...
Back in the day, the Chief Editor brought him in here and showed him the ropes.
Wasn't someone telling me about Mine-sensei?
WHY ARE YOU PREPARING YOUR DEBUT FOR COMIC HEAT IF SAWANOGUCHI-SAN WAS THE ONE WHO WAS ADVISING YOU?
...!!
IF YOU CAN MAKE A STORYBOARD TO THIS LEVEL OF COMPLETION...
SURELY EVEN SAWANOGUCHI-SAN WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH IT.

Hasn't there been another time where I was revising this storyboard like my life depended on it?
That's right...
To think you were willing to attack me without putting your earnest effort behind it...
It really is too bad.
That was the first time!
I suffered and pondered alone... I kept fixing it over and over until I thought I was gonna die!
Could I have unconsciously taken Sawanoguchi-san's advice back then?
And worked this hard with Sawanoguchi-san to make this work...
If I had just done it this way to start with...

THAT SHE PREYS ON NOVICES, AND USES HER FEMININITY AS A WEAPON?
THOSE ARE NOTHING BUT LIES SPREAD BY FOOLS JEALOUS OF HER SUCCESS.
I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE IT... HAVE YOU CAUGHT WIND OF THOSE WORTHLESS RUMORS?
D-DO YOU MEAN...
WERE THERE REALLY RUMORS LIKE THAT FLOATING AROUND?
INDEED THERE WERE.
IT WAS WHEN I WAS MAKING MY DEBUT AND MASTER-WORK.
IT WAS SHE WHO MANAGED "FAREWELL, TOKYO."
!!
THEY STARTED RIGHT AT THE TIME WHEN SHE MANAGED ME.
I thought so...
Mine-sensei was involved with Sawanoguchi-san...

"FAREWELL, TOKYO" SOLD OVER 30 MILLION COPIES IN PRINT.
SO... SAWANOGUCHI-SAN MANAGED THAT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SAWANOGUCHI-SAN IS A RATHER ECCENTRIC PERSON. AS AN EDITOR, SHE CERTAINLY KNOWS HER STUFF. IT'S JUST THAT SHE TENDS TO BECOME SMITTEN WITH AN AUTHOR'S TALENT.
SHE'LL END UP BECOMING ATTACHED TO THE AUTHOR. SHE STARTS POKING HER WAY INTO THEIR PRIVATE LIFE.
SO IT'S NOT JUST THE AUTHORS, THE OTHER EDITORS ALSO MISUNDERSTAND WHAT SHE DOES.
BUT THESE MISTAKEN BELIEFS ARE THEIR FAULT, NOT HER OWN.
AND YOU SEEM TO BE MISTAKEN AS WELL..
...!?

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN YOUR TROUBLED HISTORY WITH SAWANOGUCHI-SAN.
YOU'D FINALLY CAUGHT HER EYE, BUT ENDED UP BEING LED ASTRAY BY RUMORS.
I can't believe it...
This whole time...
Just what...
What on earth have I been doing?!

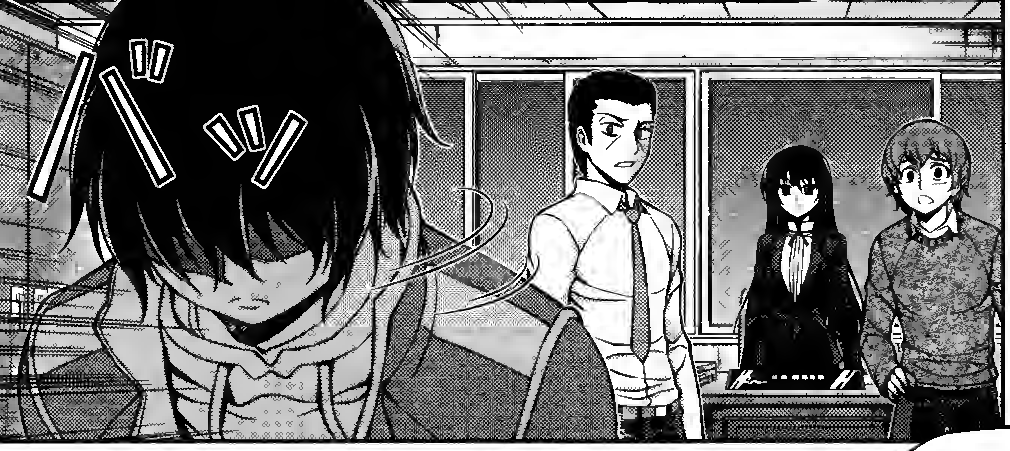
I APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE!
BUT PLEASE, I MUST RESIGN!
WHAT?!

BUT...
THIS STORYBOARD IS SAWANOGUCHI-SAN'S...
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
I'M TRULY GRATEFUL THAT YOU GAVE ME A CHANCE, CHIEF EDITOR, AND I LEARNED SO MUCH FROM BEING HERE!
THIS STORYBOARD OWES MUCH TO EVERYONE HERE PUSHING ME TO DO MY BEST.
THIS IS SOMETHING WE MADE TOGETHER!

I KNOW THAT IT SEEMS VERY SELFISH!
WHAT THE HELL? ARE YOU EVEN AWAKE RIGHT NOW?!
YOU THINK YOU CAN SPIT SOME-THING LIKE THAT OUT AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME?!
BUT PLEASE... FORGIVE ME!
I'M SURE THAT YOU'RE AWARE, INAMINE-SAN...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN...
IF YOU LEAVE COMIC HEAT.

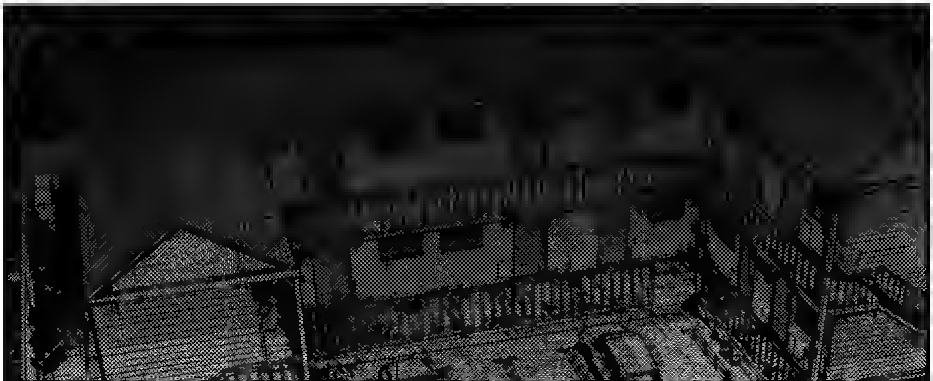
I'M CERTAIN OF MY DECISION. EVEN IF I'M PERMANENTLY BANISHED FROM COMIC HEAT...
THIS STORYBOARD SHOULD GO TO SAWANOGUCHI-SAN.
ビクッ

PLEASE, LEAVE IF YOU WISH.
INAMINE KOUTA-SAN.
LISTEN ...
DO YOU EVEN HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHY YOU'RE IN HERE IN THE FIRST...
...!
STOP IT.
I OWE YOU ALL A GREAT DEBT!
I ASSURE YOU, I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT!
IF IT IS NOT COMIC HEAT...
THEN GO WHERE YOU HAVE CHOSEN.
ﾚﾞ?



Sawanoguchi...
Hinata...

CHRIST! HE'S GOT NO SPINE AT ALL.
SO IN THE END, INAMINE WAS JUST A GUTLESS COWARD.



WHEW... EVERY SINGLE TIME... WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT YAMASE-SENSEI?
タッタッ
I EVEN HAD TO GO THE PRINTER TO STOP THE PRESSES... UGH...
……!?
INAMINE...
KUN?

PLEASE! CHIEF EDITOR SAWANO-GUCHI!
スッ
びくっ
PLEASE READ MY STORY-BOARD!
ハラ
IS THIS THE STORY-BOARD... FOR COMIC HEAT?
OH?

THIS IS AMAZING... IT'S BECOME REMARKABLY GOOD!
A LOT OF THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT SINCE THE LAST TIME I SAW IT!
ペラッ
ペラッ
ペラッ
THIS STORY-BOARD ...
IT'S WHAT YOU WANTED ME TO MAKE, ISN'T IT?
...?
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN...
I'M SURE YOU MUST BE WORKING WITH A VERY GOOD MANAGER AT COMIC HEAT.

I WAS JUST RUNNING AWAY!
I DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO ADDRESS IT MYSELF. I WAS LOST IN DESPERATION, THAT'S ALL THERE WAS TO IT!
IS THERE ANY POSSIBLE WAY YOU COULD GIVE ME JUST ONE MORE CHANCE?
I'M PREPARED FOR THAT.
BUT...
NOW THAT THE STORY-BOARD HAS COME THIS FAR...
I DOUBT COMIC HEAT WOULD GIVE IT UP WITHOUT A FIGHT, CORRECT?
EVEN IF I CAN'T EVER WORK WITH COMIC HEAT AGAIN...
I WANT TO TRY MY CHANCES WITH COMIC SPLASH.

THE TWO OF US...
...MADE THIS STORYBOARD TOGETHER!

YOU KNOW... WE DON'T PAY AS WELL AS COMIC HEAT.
はっ

I'LL TRY MY HARD-EST!
I'LL GIVE IT EVERY-THING I HAVE!
BUT IF THAT'S OKAY, THEN I WON'T STOP YOU!
INAMINE KOUTA-SAN!
BUT I'M VERY SURPRISED ...
MAYBE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU'D JUST GONE ALL THE WAY WHEN YOU ATTACKED ME.
Huh?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT YOU'D FIND A CALL GIRL AND MAKE THIS MUCH PROGRESS...
YOU WEREN'T FOOLING AROUND, INAMINE-KUN...
Gaah! How did you know about...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK ME NEXT TIME, ALRIGHT?
I UNDERSTAND WHAT INSPIRES YOU, SO AS THE CHIEF EDITOR I CAN HELP YOU IN ANY WAY YOU NEED.
だら
だら
OH, AND DON'T GO WASTING YOUR MONEY ON CALL GIRLS, OKAY?
SO DID YOU LOSE YOUR VIRGINITY?
IF WE'RE GOING TO WORK TOGETHER, I REALLY FEEL I MUST ASK...
THAT... THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH WORK!

ドサッ

SAWANO-GUCHI...
SENPAI...
楽しげな写真…
二人の過去に一体何が…？
8月号に続く!!
2011年6月27日●発売予定